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C. D. BRIGHAM, Editor.

M. F. EGAN, Business Manager.

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☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address THE COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet, containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the Family.

☞ TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per Year (52 Issues), $2 00; in Clubs of Twenty, $1 50; one copy gratis to the getter-up of the Club.

The money must always accompany the order, and in no instance can these terms be departed from.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 31, 1872. NO. 96.

FIRST EDITION.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Germany and the Pope.

Feeling Over the Late Allocution.

The African Slave Trade,

Another Insurrection in Spain.

Irritation in Germany Over the Recent Allocution of the Pope.

BERLIN, December 30.—The journals of Konigsberg and Posen have been threatened with immediate confiscation if they publish the insulting reference to Germany in the recent papal allocution. The Charge D' Affairs of the German Legation at the Vatican will probably be instructed not to attend the reception of the diplomatic body by the Pope on the first of January, on account of the allocution.

ROME, December 30.—The German Charge d'Affaires informed Cardinal Antonelli last week that he had been instructed to take unlimited absence. He has since closed the Legation and quit Rome for Berlin.

The Czarowitch Recovering.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 30.—The Czarowitch slept six hours last night. The fever has diminished.

Interview of American Officers with the Sultan at Zanzibar—The African Slave Trade.

Herald Special.]

ZANZIBAR, December 18, via London, December 30.—The United States steamer Yantic arrived on the 10th. Captain Wilson, with United States Consul John F. Webb and the officers of the ship, visited the Sultan on the 11th. They were received by the troops and met by the Sultan in front of the palace. Captain Wilson represented to the Sultan the sentiments of the American people in regard to slavery, and requested the abrogation of the clause of the treaty with England. The Sultan's reply was received on the 13th. He says: "Thirty-three years ago I was forbidden by my father, Said Said, to export slaves to Muscat. The slaves now carried there are stolen by Arabs and tribes from the Persian Gulf. I will make strong efforts in future to prevent the kidnapping of these slaves. I will make every effort."

The English corvette Britton arrived here on the 12th, and waits for Sir Bartle Frere. The Yantic also waits. Two other English vessels are expected here.

Another Insurrection Expected in Spain.

MADRID, via LONDON, December 31, 6 A.M.—A rising of Alphonists is expected. The government is prepared to suppress it. The citizens of Madrid are opposed to Amadeus, who is greatly excited.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 30, 5 P. M.—Consols for money 93⅞, and for account 93 5/16@92. American securities—5-20s of '65, 92½@92¾; of '67, 92¾@93; of '68, 93¼; new 5s, 89¾; Erie, 50½. The amount of bullion gone into the Bank of England on balance to-day is 220,000. The rate for money at the Stock Exchange was 2 per cent. Government securities are higher than the Bank rate by ½ per cent. Turpentine 34s.

PARIS, December 30.—Rentes 72 francs 82 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 30.—Cotton firm; middling uplands 9 7-16@9 7/16; Orleans 10 1-16; sales 15,000 bales, including 3,000 bales for speculation and export; sales of American cotton 7,000 bales. Breadstuffs quiet. Red winter wheat 10s 10d@10s 11d. Pork 79s. Corn 29s. Mess pork 64s. Cheese 64s. Cumberland middles 36s; short rib middles 37s. Petroleum—Refined 20½s.

CASUALTIES.

The Boiling to Death of Two Men at Ironton, Ohio—Culpable Negligence.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

IRONTON, O., December 30, 1872.

At the Coroner's inquest, Saturday morning, over the remains of the two men scalded at the Belfort furnace, the jury's verdict was as follows: The jury, after having heard the evidence and examined the bodies, do find that the deceased came to their deaths by being scalded while engaged in cleaning boilers at Belfort furnace, in said city, by steam, which was thrown through an open valve from another battery of boilers, under the charge of assistant engineer, William J. Page, by blowing off steam through the wind column. The jury find that the mud valve of the battery which was being cleaned was improperly left open by some person or persons unknown. The jury find the accident which resulted in the death of Andrew Diles and James Venters was owing to the culpable negligence of Mr. C. Page, assistant engineer in charge of the engine at the time. In not carefully examining the condition of said valve and closing it before blowing off from the battery in operation. And in view of the fact that the managers, Thos. L. Houghton, and the first engineer, Chas. Brands, known by past experience that a similar accident was liable to occur, under like circumstances, with the connected batteries of Belfort furnace, the jury find them censurable for not establishing and maintaining stringent regulations for the operation of the boilers while engaged in cleaning them.

Another Lamp Accident.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 30, 1872.

Mrs. Jackson, a colored woman, was badly burned last night by the breaking of a gasoline lamp, and will probably die.

Switchman Crushed to Death.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 30, 1872.

A switchman on the Wabash Road, named Joseph Smith, was killed here last night by being run over by a locomotive.

Railroad Collision—Brakeman Killed.

CINCINNATI, December 30.—A Logansport dispatch says: Two trains on the Logansport and Wabash Valley Railroad collided to-day, killing Mr. Wolf, a brakeman, and injuring several others, but not seriously. Four cars were badly smashed. The locomotive ran clear through three grain cars.

A Young Lady's Clothing Takes Fire From a Grate.

LOUISVILLE, December 30.—Yesterday evening, Miss Carrie Rogers, aged twenty years, daughter of Dr. Lewis Rogers, had her clothing to catch fire from contact with the grate. The burning clothing was torn from her person, but not till she was so badly injured that she lingered in great agony until this morning when she died.

Schooner Wrecked—Captain and Five of the Crew Lost.

HALIFAX, December 30.—The schooner Lord of Isles, of and for Halifax, from St. Martins, West Indies, struck an iron bound island last night and became a total wreck. The Captain and four of her crew were drowned and the mate died from exposure after reaching shore.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamers Greece, from Liverpool, and Victoria, from Glasgow, arrived at New York yesterday. The steamships Spain, Minnesota, India and Westphalia have arrived out.

Gilbert C. Collins, clerk at Turkey Hill coal pit, five miles from Bellville, Illinois, while assisting in dumping a screen, Saturday, fell down a shaft one hundred and twenty feet, and was fatally injured.

Walter M. Cinkey, President of the Bank of Chenango, New York, died Sunday night.

H. M. F. Hewson, a prominent banker of Cincinnati, died Sunday night.

Bergh's officers, in New York, yesterday stopped all stages with less than four horses attached.

Policeman F. J. Bachelier yesterday in New Orleans was killed by being shot through the heart.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Milwaukee yesterday appointed Levi H. Kellogg, Augustus Smith, O. J. Hale, W. E. Smith, Wm. Young, P. D. Annowi and Chas. F. Ilsley, delegates to meet and confer with delegates from Canada, St. Paul, Duluth and Chicago, who are to meet at Milwaukee the first of February.

Number of hogs packed in Chicago to date the present season 623,793.

Senator Carpenter was banqueted at the Plantation House, Milwaukee, last night, by the Young Men's Republican club of that city.

The extreme cold weather still prevails throughout the New England States.

The steamship Rhein, from Bremen, arrived at New York yesterday.

Dispatches from San Diego report abundant rain falls in all the southern counties of California.

Generals Schofield and Alexander sailed yesterday in the steamer California for Honolulu. The precise nature of the mission is not known.

Thomas L. A. Valequet, a well known telegraph operator in the Western Union office, Chicago, died at his residence in that city yesterday, leaving a wife and seven children.

Col. Edward Loraine, Chief Engineer of the James River and Kanawha Canal, died at Richmond, Va., yesterday, aged fifty-five.

A private letter received in San Francisco from Arizona says: The Lee family, circus performers, eight persons, well known in California, were all murdered by Apaches while on their way to Mexico through Arizona.

Four firemen of the steamship Sacramento, wrecked on Geronimo Island, commenced suit yesterday in the United States District Court, San Francisco, to recover a portion of the treasure saved from the wreck as a reward for their efforts.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 30, 1872.

THE CENTER STREET FIRE VICTIMS.

A large crowd gathered at the Center street ruins to-day, where a force of one hundred men were at work removing the ruins. The intention of employing workhouse prisoners was abandoned and poor laboring men engaged. The belief seems to prevail that the remaining bodies was buried beneath the ruins of the stairway. Alderman Gilsey contributed $500 toward the expenses of removing the ruins. Judge Dowling and Morgan Jones offered to increase their donations. The Coroner offered $500. No other remains have yet been discovered, but pieces of shawls, stockings, &c., have been found. Comptroller Green has written to Coroner Herrman that he cannot put the expense of the work in the tax levy, as that is already made up, but he will see that it is paid.

CITY DEPOSITS REMOVED.

On the recommendation of Comptroller Green City Chamberlain Palmer has made arrangements for the removal of city deposits, to the amount of two millions, from the Tenth National Bank to the Broadway Bank. The recommendation is made on the ground that the bank is weak in deposits, having besides city deposits a total of only $369,030, of which it appears $369,700 were loans, or indebtedness of directors of the bank.

CHARITY BOXES ROBBED.

Burglars entered Trinity Church last night and robbed the contribution boxes of about sixty dollars. They were in search of the communion service, which were locked up in the safe.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

J. S. Adams, Collector of the Port of Pensacola, has disappeared from Taylor's Hotel, Jersey City. As he had a large amount of money with him, foul play is feared.

UNSAFE HOTELS.

The Brooklyn Fire Marshal, Keady, examined the hotels of that city and reports three of the leading hotels insecure in the matter of fire escapes.

THE STOKES CASE.

In the Stokes case to-day D. E. Conley, parlor man, was cross-examined. His testimony was unsatisfactory. He contradicted the evidence he gave on the former trial.

MORE REMAINS FOUND.

At a late hour this afternoon the workmen found among the ruins in the Centre street building, a human skull, with hair several inches long attached, a pair of women's shoes and fragments of female apparel.

CRIMES.

The Hibler Wife Murder Trial.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 30, 1872.

In the Hibler wife murder trial to-day Dr. Myers, physician and surgeon, testified that the wound was necessarily mortal, although he did not consider Dr. Virgil's treatment of the case proper. The next witness, ex-Sheriff Dallinger, swore that he accompanied the prisoner to his wife's bedside. Hibler asked her if she would state the shooting was accidental. Her reply was, "No, I was struck with a fie on my tongue. You have threatened several times to shoot, and you done so on purpose." A step-daughter of the prisoner, Mary Bandman, testified that she was present at the shooting of her mother, and that no conversation ensued between the two, but that Hibler deliberately fired at her. The Chief of Police testified that after Hibler was arrested *he admitted to him* that he had loaded the gun purposely to shoot his wife. Hibler. The Court room is crowded daily. The case will continue several days.

The Shooting Affair at Dayton, Oalo.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DAYTON, OHIO, December 30, 1872.

Foster, who shot Spang and Cathcart, Saturday night, was to-day released on one thousand dollars bail to answer a charge of shooting with intent to kill. Spang's throat is swelling, and he has great difficulty in breathing; is still probably. Cathcart was shot in the lungs and is rapidly growing worse. Foster, without a doubt, will be cleared on the ground of self defense.

A Young Lady Robbed of $25,000.

CHICAGO, December 30.—Edward A. Everett, apparently a respectable gentleman, living at 110 Twenty-second street, this city, was on Saturday brought before Justice Banyon, in the Police Court, charged by a Miss Shortwell with having robbed her of one hundred thousand dollars in bonds of the Selma and Gulf Railroad, valued at $25,000, and which he had been entrusted with to deliver to Gen. A. H. Roddy of Alabama. According to her statement, she was introduced to Everett at the Grand Central Hotel, in New York, by one of the clerks of the house, came to this city and Chicago in Everett's care, and that he secured possession of her trunk long enough to rob it. Accused was held to bail in $75,000 for trial in the Criminal Court.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 30, 1872, 8 P. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For New England easterly and southerly winds and increasing cloudiness. For the Middle States southeasterly to southwesterly winds and cloudy weather, with rain over the southern portion, but snow over the northern portion, turning partly into rain on Tuesday. For the South Atlantic States southerly to easterly winds and increasing cloudiness. For the Gulf States southeasterly and southerly winds and cloudy and possibly threatening weather. From Illinois southward to Missouri to Southern Ohio cloudy weather, rain and southeasterly to southwesterly winds. From latter region northeastward, over lower Michigan and Lake Erie, cloudy weather, snow and southwesterly to northeasterly winds. For Northwest increasing pressures, falling temperature, northwesterly to northeasterly winds and clearing but partly cloudy weather, extending to Missouri, Illinois and Michigan on Tuesday. The temperature continues rising from the Gulf to the lower lakes, and eastward to the Atlantic.

Verdict Against a Life Insurance Company.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 30, 1872.

A verdict for five thousand dollars against the Union Central Life Insurance Company of Cincinnati, in favor of C. D. Caldwell's estate, has been obtained in the Court of Common Pleas. The agent called on Caldwell on Saturday with a policy. He told him to call on Monday and he would pay it. On Sunday Caldwell received fatal injuries, but on Monday the amount of the premium was tendered the company and refused.

The Taylor-Boggs land case has been postponed until April 8.

FIRES.

Knitting Factory Burned.

FULTON, N. Y., December 30.—The knitting factory of H. S. Conde & Son was burned this afternoon. The fire originated in the picker. Loss on building $12,000; insured for $7,000. Loss on stock and machinery $60,000; insured for $40,000.

At Muncie, Indiana—Loss $6,000.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 30, 1872.

A fire at Muncie, Ind., this morning, destroyed six thousand dollars in clothing, dry goods, photograph gallery and groceries. Insurance thirty-five hundred dollars. Cause unknown.

Fire in Muncie, Indiana.

CINCINNATI, O., December 30,—A special to the *Gazette* from Muncie, Indiana, says L. D. Evans, of that place, lost $6,000 by the burning of his clothing store this morning. Insurance $5,500. Neeley, photographer, lost $1,500.

Ætna Fire Insurance Company—Action by Stockholders.

HARTFORD, CONN., December 30.—The stockholders of the Ætna Fire Insurance Company to-day unanimously voted to reduce the capital stock from three millions to two millions, and afterwards voted to increase to the original amount, and assess the stockholders 33½ per cent.

In the town of Ulysses, Tompkins county, New York, lives Mr. Samuel Van, who was born in New Brunswick, State of New Jersey, December 29, 1872. He is of good physical organization, and his mental qualities are scarcely any of the less degree of sudden charges of weather felt by those who wear flannel garments, and mothers should endeavor to secure such for their little people, in preference to all those showy outside trimmings which fashion commands.

THE Charleston, S. C., *Courier*, now nearly seventy years old, during its entire career has never changed its proprietorship materially, except as death rendered changes imperative. Now, however, the establishment is announced for sale, for the first time in its history, owing to the death of the senior proprietor, A. S. Willington. The establishment is in good condition, well stocked with presses and material, while the paper is one of the most prosperous in the South.

The Philadelphia City Councils are taking action looking to the prevention of the erection of combustible structures in that city, and are turning their attention to wooden cornices, mansard roofs, &c. What is Pittsburgh doing?

Two suits have been commenced in Chancery by the heirs of one John Bostwick, to recover real estate in Chicago to the value of about two millions of dollars.

THE CHURCH ACCIDENT.

Account by an Eye-Witness.

A Combination of Horrors.

[From the Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin, 28th.]

A gentlemen who was present, and also a partial sufferer, by the late fearful accident, furnishes us with the following description of the way in which it occurred and the frightful scenes that followed:

STATEMENT OF AN EYE WITNESS.

The upper chamber of the church was crowded to its utmost capacity—not only were the seats filled, but the aisles densely packed; a small space occupied by the Christmas tree and its richly laden boughs, was the only spot that did not teem with joyous life, hope and expectancy.

The occasion was intended as a church family gathering, and as only thirteen families are represented in the church organization, those engaged in getting up the entertainment were surprised to find so large an audience present.

FEARS OF A CALAMITY

were entertained by some, at the commencement, but as time wore away, and the pleasing scenes around were inspiring and happifying, hope took the place of fear and the whole was a scene of joyous festivity. Had it been possible to communicate those fears without creating a panic, and thus bringing about the calamity which so suddenly overcame us, it would have been done.

The opening exercises and address were concluded, probably two-thirds of the gifts had been distributed—among them many costly and valuable presents—when, without a moment's warning, there was a peculiar tremor or shake—a quivering of the timbers—

A FEARFUL CRASH,

like the falling of trees and the breaking of limbs; and in a moment the entire audience were forced toward the center of the building, in a funnel shape, or rather a long open trough, and precipitated to the floor below, at once crushing or smothering those who were immediately in the center of the room or trough. The cries and groans at this moment, with the crash and noise of the breaking timbers, were heard for the distance of nearly a mile. Scarcely had the people reached the floor, until the ceiling of the second story fell upon the struggling ones, extinguishing the lamps, and covering the entire mass of humanity with lime, plaster, laths, joists and other debris.

DARKNESS,

felt darkness, prevailed for a few moments; eyes, mouths, throats were filled with lime and sand, and it was suffocating in the extreme. For a moment it appeared as though the entire multitude precipitated below were suffocated or killed by the falling timbers, scarcely a moan, or groan, or voice could be heard. Just at this extremity a voice was heard, "The building's on fire!" and as the blaze ran up the side of the building, or crept down toward the people,

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A QUEER matrimonial muddle has just been settled in Herkimer county, N. Y. A certain ex-sheriff of that county, who passed much of his time in Philadelphia, received information that his wife was unfaithful to him, and wrote her a sharp letter about it; her reply was equally sharp, and stung him into bringing suit against the paramour for the alienation of the peace of his family. Before the suit was concluded, the paramour took the woman to Indiana, and procured a divorce for her, took her to Massachusetts and married her, then took her home and commenced a suit against the sheriff for defamation of his wife's character. Last week the suits were both decided. The sheriff received a verdict for $2,000 for his wife; the other man a verdict of $49 for his wife's injured reputation. Both parties cry "quits," and are glad the thing is over.

THE majority of people are not aware of the beneficial effect of wearing flannel next to the body, both in cold and warm weather. Flannel is not so uncomfortable in warm weather as prejudiced people believe. Frequently colds and constant hacking coughs soon leave on adopting flannel garments. There is no need of great bulk about the waist, which confirms the wearing of flannel with those who prefer wasp waists to health, for in that case the flannel can be cut as loosely fitting waists, always fastening at the back. There are scarcely any of the bad effects of sudden

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Retiracy of Mr. Boutwell.

HIS PROBABLE SUCCESSOR.

Pomeroy's Indian Agency Letter.

Alleged Proof of Forgery.

Freedmen's Bureau Inspected.

Decidedly Disgraceful Showing.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December, 30, 1872.

Boutwell's Resignation.

Secretary Boutwell has not yet tendered his resignation, but will retire from the Cabinet about the middle of February, and enter the canvass for Senatorship of Massachusetts. There seems to be but little doubt but that Assistant Secretary Richardson has been agreed upon as his successor. Upon the President becoming aware, some time since, that Mr. Boutwell would resign, he indicated a desire to give the place to Mr. Delano, but after consultation with the latter the matter went no further. There will be strong influences from various quarters to prevent the selection of Richardson, but it is not believed here that they will succeed.

State Electoral Votes.

Col. Grosvenor, bearer of the electoral vote of Ohio, is having a hard time finding any one to receive it. Vice President Colfax sent word from a funnel shape, or rather a long open trough, and precipitated to the floor below, at once crushing or smothering those who were immediately in the center of the room or trough. The cries and groans at this moment, with the crash and noise of the breaking timbers, were heard for the distance of nearly a mile. Scarcely had the people reached the floor, until the ceiling of the second story fell upon the struggling ones, extinguishing the lamps, and covering the entire mass of humanity with lime, plaster, laths, joists and other debris.

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RAILWAY MATTERS.

A Much Needed Road.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Some two or three years ago, at the instance and expense of citizens of Beaver, Washington and Allegheny counties, a railway survey was made from Georgetown, or Smith's Ferry, on the Ohio river, by way of Hookstown, Frankfort Springs and Murdocksville to Oakdale, on the Pan Handle Railroad—it being a direct line along the water courses of Mill Creek, Traverse Creek, Potato Garden and North Robinson runs—a distance of about twenty-six miles, and the whole being found so practicable, and indeed favorable, that a bill for a charter of incorporation was introduced and passed by one branch of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, but for some reason defeated in the other, and which, of course, for the time, gave a quietus to the whole matter. Recently, however, the subject has been revived, and meetings held and resolutions passed, along the route, expressive of the need and importance of such improvement, and a willingness on the part of citizens interested to encourage and help along with its construction, should the Pennsylvania or any other railroad company be induced to favor or take hold of the enterprise. The inducements it holds out are believed to be such as the following, viz:

1st. It would furnish a short and almost *air line link* of connection between the East and the vast and increasingly important thoroughfares reaching away to and opening up the great West, connecting as it would at the Ohio river at Georgetown (or some point near) with the Cleveland, or with the Little Beaver, through New Lisbon and on west, or with the northern extension of the Wheeling and Southern, or indeed with all these great arms of extension, as they are reaching out and opening up and gathering in the resources of the land.

2d. It would open at once an outlet north for the great and immensely increasing coal interest along the Pan Handle Road, which is now only obtained by way of Steubenville or Pittsburgh.

3d. As the entire route is through a most important agricultural and mineral region, now cut off from or very inconvenient to any railroad accommodation, its local travel and trade must of course at once be great.

But no more now, as the matter is soon to be brought to the notice of railroad officials.

ENTERPRISE.

SNOW STORMS OF THE PAST.

Loss of Life and Property Throughout the Country in Former Winters.

(From the New York World, 26th.)

Among the great snow storms of the past few were more extended in their range or more disastrous to life and property than that of January 17, 1867. It lasted nearly twenty-five hours, and was accompanied by a furious gale and very cold weather. It extended as far west as the Plains and was bounded on the south by the Ohio and Potomac, although some of its effects reached Hampton Roads. Another severe storm occurred on the 20th. Wrecks were piled up along the coast and scores of lives were lost. Many persons were bewildered in the snow and quite a number frozen to death, especially in New England. Among these was Commodore G. S. Blake, Who got bewildered in the drifts, from that of the most distant timekeeper to the cheap kind for the million. All grades of work. Good city references given. Address business, Lock Box 499, City Postoffice.

A two to four feet of snow fell through-out the Middle States. Four feet was the reported depth in Pittsburgh, and as it was much drifted, the consequences of the interruption of communication between the cities and country for several days. Many people were barricaded in their houses. Steamboats were laid up in port, rail cars were snowbound and mails were delayed in a remarkable manner. There was no regular communication by rail between New York and Boston for four days.

The records of the past contain accounts of many similar storms; but the most striking facts concerning them were naturally observed in New England.

The storm of January 19, 1857, stopped all the railroads of New England. The Stonington road was not opened until January 27. Trains did not commence running between Hartford and Providence until the same day. In some parts of Connecticut the thermometer was 30 degrees below zero.

In the storm of December 28, 1853, the snow began falling at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning and continued till four o'clock on Thursday afternoon. The snow was drifted high as the tops of the cars. A train of three locomotives started from neighboring town toward Boston, and was embedded in a drift at the end of the first mile. On Thursday a train of three locomotives coupled from morning till night in accomplishing five miles.

The great snow storm of January 15, 1831, was a stupendous one. The snow was drifted in some places in the cities to the depth of fifteen feet. The city was generally closed on the following Sunday; partly because the snow was piled so high against the doors that they could not be opened.

The Great Blizzard of 1857, a snow fell that many persons engaged in festivities commemorative of Washington's birthday throughout the country, were snowed up in various halls, and had to remain in them for days.

Ownership of Stolen Treasury Notes.

(From the New York World.)

On May 22, 1868, a messenger of Adams Express Company was knocked senseless, and five $1,000 and three $500 United States Treasury notes stolen from him, notes which the express company claimed they had paid for and which were, therefore, its property. The express company also asserted that the notice given to Vermilye & Co., and other bankers and brokers, that the notes had been stolen; that all these bankers and brokers were furnished with the numbers and descriptions of the notes, and that, as Vermilye & Co. obtained possession of these notes after such notice, and notwithstanding that the notes were not negotiable, so as to show that they were not generally negotiable, Vermilye & Co. were not entitled to receive payment of the notes from the United States Treasury. Vermilye & Co., on the other hand, claimed that they obtained possession of the notes in good faith from respectable parties, paying the full market value for them, and that they had received no notice of the notes having been stolen or that they were not generally negotiable. The United States Treasury paid the value of the notes into the United States Circuit Court of this district, to the decision of that court as to which of the claimants should be paid.

Judge Blatchford on Friday decided that the facts proved are sufficient to establish the right of Adams Express Company, against Vermilye & Co., to receive payment of the notes, and that the United States has to protect the United States in paying the interest to the express company, and he orders a decree in favor of the express company.

Fire-Proof Buildings.

Hiram Powers, the well known American sculptor, has written a letter from Florence, Italy, on the subject of fire-proof buildings. Having the highest opinion of the ability and skill of his countrymen, he thinks they still have much to learn in this direction. To be fire-proof in our own buildings, he says, our neighbors' houses must also be fire-proof, and this calls for municipal laws regulating the material and the construction of buildings. This is what should be required:—First, the abandonment of all wood floors; second, the floors to be made of bricks, thus sealing down all ventilation in case of fire; third stairs to be metallic, or of stone; fourth, the rafters of the roof like the joists of the floors, to be all bricked over before putting on the slates or tiles. Mr. Powers closes his letter with this paragraph:

"But (it may be asked) will not joists and rafters take fire? Yes they will, and often do take fire here in Florence. But with a floor of bricks laid in cement with mortar upon them the fire department need not hurry to such a fire; hours, indeed, might elapse before they reached it. I have known an instance of nearly two days' burning of a joist, just under a fireplace, and yet the beam not burnt off, only deeply charred. The fire cannot get through the bricks, but it would soon find its way through a wood floor, and then with good ventilation it would soon reach the garret. In short, the whole building would be in flames within half an hour. Brick floors do not prevent fires, but they prevent conflagrations. No city can be burnt with brick floors, nor has a house been burnt within the city of Florence during my residence here of thirty-five years."

THE Pennsylvania Railroad Company has given notice to the merchants of Philadelphia that the old policy of the New Jersey roads in charging high rates between that city and New York, particularly on low class goods, has been abandoned by the new management, and that the closing of the canals need no longer prevent a movement of freights at reasonable rates. Reductions ranging from ten to fifty per cent. are announced. The company has also opened three places at different locations in New York, and three in Philadelphia, for the reception and delivery of goods, and arranged to run their cars through from city to city without breaking bulk, and at almost as great speed as the express companies.

ACCORDING to the report of the State Inspector of salt in Michigan, for the year ending November 30, 1872, there were 724,921 bushels inspected, distributed as follows: Fine salt, 672,034 bushels; solar salt, 21,461; second quality, 19,876 bushels, and packed salt 11,110 bushels. The revenue received by the Salt Inspector for the year amounted to $10,862, and the expenditures to $10,405, leaving a balance of $453. The demand for Michigan salt has increased rapidly, and the Inspector has issued a circular calling attention to the habit of dealers in other States of removing the brand of the Michigan Inspectors from "second-class" salt and putting the brand of "fine" thereon.

STATE NEWS.

The *Inquirer* gives the census of a remarkable family in Londonderry township, Bedford county. It says that a few days ago a comparatively young man, smooth-faced and small called upon a Bedford lawyer and asked if there was any law on the statute books of Pennsylvania allowing pensions to parents of twins, stating that such a rule existed in Russia. In explanation of his inquiry, he stated that his wife had given birth to twins seven times during the last seven years, and that the prolific mother, a buxom brunette of thirty-three years, has, in addition borne a child regularly every year for ten years of the last seventeen, thus making an addition to the population during that time of twenty-four. That woman deserves a pension; and if there is no law authorizing it, one should be immediately enacted.

The authorities of Reading have entered into a contract with Eastern parties for the erection of a fire alarm telegraph in that city, to be completed within four months.

A rape case is reported in Pinegrove township, near Rockland Station, in Venango county, the parties being a married man, the father of a family, and a young lady of sixteen. The brute has been arrested and admitted to bail in the sum of $1,000.

The merchants of Franklin have determined to do away with the credit system on and after the 1st of January.

Miss Neilson played "Juliet" to a $1,300 audience at Scranton last Wednesday night.

Last Friday evening Mr. Thomas Moore, an old and highly respected citizen of Franklin, while laboring under mental aberration, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. At last accounts he was still alive, but there was little prospect of his recovery. He gives a reason for the deed that there was a conspiracy to hang him.

The *Pennsylvania Dutchman* is the name of a new magazine, the first number of which has just appeared, published at Lancaster. It is intended to furnish reading for that portion of our people who speak "Pennsylvania Dutch," and is printed in that singularly mixed dialect.

The surviving members of the Forty-eighth Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers will hold their re-union at Pottsville to-morrow.

The *Times* claims that Reading has a larger volunteer fire department than any other city in the country, comprising nearly two thousand members.

It is claimed by the Reading *Eagle* that more than one million dollars are stowed away in the breeches pockets of the people of Berks county, doing neither the community nor the possessors any perceptible good. The stringency of the money market about the str... locking up of the currency by its rich but not very energetic citizens.

REPORT of Judges to the General Committee of Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, on the United States Watches, Class 5 (No.), Watches, Marion, GENTLEMEN—The Judges appointed to examine into the merits of the articles contained in Class 10, beg leave to make the following report: No. 1659, United States Watch Company, Marion, New Jersey. These watch movements, the result of American capital, skill and perseverence as specimens of this branch of science and manufacture, will bear the European make. The watches exhibited by this company are of all grades, from that of the most exact timekeeper to the cheap kind for the million. All grades of work. Good city references given. Address business, Lock Box 499, City Postoffice.

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REPORT of Judges to the General Committee of Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, on the United States Watches, Class 5 (No.), Watches, Marion, GENTLEMEN—The Judges appointed to examine into the

The Daily Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1872.

THE contract between the city of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, embodying the conditions of the ordinance adopted by Councils last summer, relative to the vacation of certain streets, and the construction of bridges and tunnels at the intersection of streets with the railroad tracks, was yesterday signed by the Hon. JAMES BLACKMORE, Mayor, on behalf of the city, and J. EDGAR THOMSON, President, on behalf of the Pennsylvania Railroad company. This is one of the most important contracts ever consummated between the city and the railroad company, and it is not doubted that both the company and the city will be greatly benefited by the changes and improvements contemplated therein. The carrying out of this contract will involve the expenditure of several million dollars.

QUITE an important event takes place today, in the closing of the transfer books of the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company, for the purpose of winding up its affairs under the present directory; the bulk of its stock having recently been disposed of in London, to which city the headquarters of the company are to be removed; all the American Directors being dropped except CYRUS W. FIELD. This change is supposed to be another step toward the eventual consolidation of the Atlantic cables belonging to this company, the Anglo-American and the French Transatlantic. A still greater scheme is said to be under discussion in England—that of consolidating all the ocean telegraphs of the world into one grand organization. It is not improbable, in view of their indispensability to the commerce of the world, that the whole question of submarine telegraphs will at no distant day be brought before some international tribunal.

AND NOW, following in the wake of her sister States, comes that choice old Bourbon Commonwealth, Kentucky, demanding the calling of a Constitutional Convention to revise its organic law. Probably there are few things in this world which need amending more. For years past the chief employment of the dominant party in Kentucky has been that of trying to tread on the coat-tails of Progress, and lustily crying out "Whoa!" Fortunately, however, there has all this time been an earnest and active Republican minority at work, leavening the State with the elements of a better civilization than has obtained in the past. Without doubt the movement in question is chiefly the result of their labors. Last year, indeed, a Republican member of the Assembly introduced a bill submitting the matter of calling a Constitutional Convention to the people at the last election; the proposition being referred to the Judiciary Committee, by whom an adverse report was rendered, the only members in favor of it being the two Republicans on the Committee. Better late than never, however, and if Kentucky has really grown tired of making grimaces at the nineteenth century, and of sullenly sucking the thumbs of its self-importance, why, so much the better for itself.

IT IS satisfactory to learn that immediately after the holiday recess, Congressmen AMES and ALLEY, who perhaps more deeply than any other persons have been inculpated by rumor in the Credit Mobilier scandal, will demand that the injunction of secrecy shall be removed and all the facts in the case thrown open to the light. It is on every ground to be hoped that such a course may be pursued. Secret investigations often result in screening guilty persons from just exposure to public contempt, while many who are really innocent are fully as often made to suffer through the fragmentary hints and surmises which are sure to leak out. What is wanted is a full and accurate statement of the evidence received and the charges substantiated or disproved. If there has been anything wrong in the business, Congress ought not to conceal it for a moment; the wider the exposure the better it will be for those who are innocent and for those who have placed confidence in the guilty. In a matter which directly concerns the good name of Congress and the integrity of men who have been invested with the direction of a great national work, nobody's feelings ought to be consulted. A public investigation would be apt to do full justice to all, and to set the whole matter right before the country. This is exactly what is wanted.

FOR SOME time past the people of Cincinnati have been agitating the construction of a coal railroad between that city and Huntington, West Virginia, for the avowed purpose of liberating them from their dependence on Pittsburgh as a coal market. Last Saturday an election was held to decide whether the city should issue bonds to the amount of a million and a quarter of dollars to aid in the construction of the road, the proposition being carried by a considerable majority. At last, therefore, the people of that city have their long wished-for elephant. It now remains to be seen what they will do with it. As a means of putting Cincinnati into direct communication with the river towns, the project may possibly prove a success; but if the people of that city expect to derive any benefits from it as a coal road, they will most likely be doomed to serious disappointment. The Cincinnati *Commercial*, after a careful consideration of the whole question, is forced to the conclusion that, as a means of solving the "cheap coal" problem, it will turn out to be a failure, inasmuch as coal cannot be mined in West Virginia, railroaded to Huntington, transferred to the Ohio side, and landed in the city at a less cost than twelve cents a bushel for transportation alone. When to this are added the cost of mining, the mine-owner's profit and the retailer's commission, it becomes evident that their new whistle will be likely to cost them quite dear. We do not think Pittsburgh need be alarmed, as yet.

ONE of the arguments generally used by railroad corporations in protesting against any regulative interposition of State Legislatures in their affairs, is, that capital would never have sought investment in railroad enterprises, except upon the understood condition that charters were contracts beyond the review and regulation of the State. This, it will be remembered, was the defense set up by one of the Illinois railroad companies in a suit recently brought against it for the revocation of its charter for having violated the railway clause in the new constitution of that State, and the acts passed in pursuance thereof. A new company has, however, just been organized under the acts in question, having for its object the construction of a new line from Chicago to the Mississippi river, which is, of course, subject to all the provisions of the new railroad acts, including those of the regulation of tariff laws by the State for the transportation of freight and passengers; the prohibition of the consolidation of parallel lines; the making void all stock dividends and methods of watering stock, and the adoption of the cumulative system of voting in the choice of directors. The natural effect of these provisions will be to keep the road out of the hands of stock speculators, and to give it safe and prudent management. Its successful construction and operation will, to some extent, form a new departure in the science of railway government, and its progress will be watched with unusual public interest.

ACCORDING to a cable telegram of a day or two ago, seventy thousand British coal miners are expected to strike work on the first of January—to-morrow. This step is doubtless the result of the decision recently made by the Amalgamated Miners' Association to resist by every means in their power the decrease of ten per cent. in their wages, said by their employers to have been rendered necessary in consequence of the late successive reductions in the price of iron. The movement, like the decrease in wages, extends not only to the colliers employed by the ironmasters, but also, from their intimate connections, to those in the employ of the steam coal owners in the west of England and South Wales. The step is greatly to be deplored by all true friends of labor and the laboring classes. Undoubtedly the reduction in question will work considerable hardship among the miners and their families; but, on the other hand, if, as is claimed, the manufacturers cannot obtain cost for their products at the old rate of wages, it is not easy to see wherein they are to blame in the matter. It is sincerely to be hoped that better counsels may yet prevail. The spectacle of seventy-five thousand men out of work at the worst season of the year, with their funds running low, and their families deprived of many comforts to which they have been accustomed, is not a cheering one. Labor is generally turbulent in proportion to its ignorance, and it is to be feared that, should the strike take place as threatened, serious mischief may arise before it is over.

A SUITE of cases involving several points of interest to the public have lately been decided, one by an Illinois court, and the other by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. The point at issue in the first case was the value of a note releasing a common carrier from liability when the shipper suffers damage through the carrier's negligence. In consideration of his goods being transported at a reduced rate, the plaintiff at the time of shipment, signed an agreement releasing the railroad company from all suit for damages, delay or loss of any kind, whether arising from the negligence of the company, its agents or employees, or from any other cause. While yet in transit the goods were destroyed by the Chicago fire, in consequence, as was shown upon the trial, of negligence on the company's part. The question for the court was, therefore, whether the writing given by the plaintiff released the company from responsibility. The court decided that it did not, and entered a decision for the amount claimed. In the second case the plaintiff delivered certain goods to a Wisconsin railroad company for transmission from one point to another; through charges having been paid, and the company agreeing to deliver them to the next succeeding carrier at the end of its own line. The goods arrived at the company's terminus, and were destroyed by fire while awaiting delivery to the next carrier. The court ruled that the company was an insurer of the goods, not only while they were in actual transit over its line of railway, but until they were actually delivered to the next succeeding carrier, unless such carrier had refused to accept the delivery, in which case the company might have relieved itself of responsibility by storing the goods and notifying the owner or consigner thereof. Both of these decisions seem in strict accordance with the dictates of business intelligence and integrity. Neither of them impose any real hardship on railroad companies or other carriers, while the principle which they establish is of considerable importance to the mercantile community generally.

IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION.

Newspapers and people in New York, thrown into a state of extreme mental and moral perturbation by the arrival of the poor Italians a fortnight or more ago, appear to have been restored to their normal condition of comfortable tranquillity. Delivered from anxiety as regards probable assassination with weapons of strange shape and in modes with which they are not already familiar, the New Yorkers are once more at liberty calmly to attend to their ordinary pursuits amidst their own rowdies, ruffians and cutthroats of indisputably Irish, and Anglo-Saxon nativity and training. Though often wearing the garments associated in the American imagination with various Rinaldos and Fra Diavolos of the theater, the recent Italian immigrants have been proved to be neither bravos nor brigands, but honest enough people, who have been drawn to the United States by reports of the riches of the land sent them by their friends already here, and who ask for nothing more than leave to support themselves by their own labor. Signor DE LUCA, Consul General of Italy at New York, has written a very strong letter in behalf of his terror exciting compatriots, in which he handsomely rebukes their calumniators, and also makes some statements which may tend to mitigate the pain with which American contributors open their purses to relieve the immediate wants of those immigrants who neither have money nor can find work. It seems that, according to Mr. P. KAPP, every immigrant landing at an American port, represents, on the average, an increase of the national wealth equal to eleven hundred and twenty-five dollars, while Mr. CHARLES L. BRACE, in 1860, estimated the value of each immigrant at one thousand dollars. Even taking the estimate of the Washington Bureau of Statistics, eight hundred and fifty dollars as the true money value of each immigrant to the nation, every reader sees that the money laid out in his temporary maintenance is a good investment. In fact it soon appeared that the Italians were wanted as laborers in several different parts of the country. Mr. DE LUCA says that this appears also to be the case with subjects is regarded with exceeding regret by the Italian government, as their industry is much needed at home.

When mentioning this subject of emigration from Europe we are reminded of the recent newspaper dispute as to the real action of the Berlin government concerning the exodus of its subjects to the United States. The New York *Staats Zeitung*, which a while ago treated as incredible and sensational the report that the German government had interfered in the movement, makes some not very flattering comments both on the action of the government and on the manner in which it has been explained and defended in the *Spenersche Zeitung*, which paper may be considered as an official organ of the government. That paper denies that the increase of transit rates for emigrants on railroads belonging to the State and to private companies was intended to hinder emigration; and it says that the measure was prompted by politico-economical considerations. By this language the New York *Staats Zeitung* is reminded of the popular saying, "He who excuses himself accuses." To believe that the motive assigned led to the measure is impossible, says the *Staats Zeitung*, and it is equally impossible, it says, that private railway companies entered into the plan without very strong pressure from above. And it seems likely, we are told, that the German steamer and packet lines will not be found to have been exposed to the same government influence. If so, the result, our contemporary thinks, will be to transfer the German emigrant transportation business to Holland, Belgium and England.

The Spenersche Zeitung, evidently inspired from above, also tries to fix upon the government of the United States blame for negligence in providing for the security of emigrants. According to the organ, negotiations with reference to a treaty for the protection of the class, entered upon years ago, have never been brought to a conclusion, through the fault of the American government. Whatever blame may have been incurred in this delay, the *Staats Zeitung* suspects rather to lie at the door of the German shipowners, whose interests might be unfavorably affected by the regulations which the American government desired to have established in the interest of passengers. But, at any rate, this proposed treaty has nothing whatever to do with the matter in hand—the arrest of emigration—and since a multitude of facts prove the anxiety with which the Berlin government regards the exodus of its subjects, it would have been both more dignified and more judicious plainly to admit its own attempt to retard the movement, than to endeavor in so ostrich-like a manner to conceal its purpose and at the same time cast odium on a friendly power.

SOME eyes of our oil producing readers may not be aware of the entire prospect of competition in their peculiar product opened up in the late French and present German province of Elsass. A German paper, the *Arbeitgeber*, states that the discovery of petroleum in that region has been known for a considerable time, and that a small beginning in the development of the sources has been made in Schattweil, near the forest of Hagenau. Penetrating a thick alluvial stratum, clay, sandstone and sand veins are met with. These latter appear to contain the petroleum, which is found at the depth of from a hundred and fifty to a hundred and sixty feet. Further explorations in the Hagenau forest led to the discovery of other sources; boring in various places having everywhere disclosed sand soaked with petroleum. Though the working of these sources is yet little more than begun, enough has been discovered to render it probable that the business may grow into an important industry. According to the authority referred to above, the method of operation is as follows: A shaft is run down to the sand-stratum which contains the oil, and galleries are then opened as in a coal mine. The oil flows out of the sand into reservoirs, from which it is conveyed to the surface. In this manner, however, all the oil contained in the sand is not secured; the sand is therefore taken into the upper air where it is distilled in retorts. The crude oil as it flows from the sides of the galleries and that which is distilled from the sand, are both subjected to another process of distillation by which the article is rectified. It is affirmed that the oil thus procured in Elsass is fully equal in excellence to the American product. The oily sand exists in great quantities, and an English chemist who has visited the site and made the necessary investigations, encourages the liveliest hopes of the success of the petroleum business there.

RECENT fires and accidents have stirred the authorities of New York into something like activity in looking after the safety of people in public resorts. An official statement concerning the condition of the theaters of the city has just been published, from which it is learned that but four out of fifteen of these establishments are insufficiently protected against risks by fire. In several of them gross carelessness was discovered in exposing life and property to destruction. The Bowery theater, which has an average nightly attendance of two thousand persons, is pronounced a dangerous trap, and Tony Pastor's opera house is little better. The Stadt theater is also badly constructed, and in case of fire many lives would inevitably be lost. There have been many improvements in all the theaters since they were last inspected, but many others are needed. In but a small number are the means of ingress and egress sufficient in cases of sudden alarm or danger. How would these places of public amusement stand this city stand the test of a thorough and critical inspection? It would be a good idea to try the experiment, at least.

NEW ORLEANS is supplying Chicago with artificial asphalt for roofing purposes. The article is manufactured out of coal-tar produced at the gas works, distilled, and the residuum is used for making roofs, in connection with a kind of felt. Carbonic acid and benzole are also produced in the distillation.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is surprising to observe the quantity of breadstuffs which reach ports in the United States by transit through Canada. This amounted, in 1869, to 1,700,000 barrels of flour; of wheat, 7,995,000 bushels; corn, 7,024,000 bushels, and other grain, 1,248,000 bushels.

It is expected that twelve new iron furnaces, producing one hundred and twenty tons per day, and affording employment for one thousand workmen, will be in operation at Rome, Georgia, within six months.

The production of salt in the Saginaw District during the season just closed was 632,000 bushels, which is about 10,000 bushels more than the average of the previous three seasons.

Here is the verdict of a Chicago jury the other day: "Your Honor, five of us is now agreed, but the other won't agree, and, sir, he is a worse vagrant than the prisoner. The justice laughed, the jury was discharged and so the farce was ended.

From recent parliamentary reports it appears that the capital invested in British and Irish railways had attained last year the enormous sum of $2,763,400,000. The total length of the railways of the United Kingdom was, in 1871, 15,376 miles.

The American Fish Culturists' Association holds its second annual meeting at New York, February 11. The annual address will be given by the President of the Association, and papers will be read on various topics pertaining to the interests of fish culture.

The vintage of the United States is beginning to receive some attention at the hands of Congress. A bill is now in preparation for the protection of wine growers, and to prevent the manufacture of imitation wines. The Internal Revenue Bureau is taking the initiative step in the matter.

It is suggested that the chamois skins of commerce, which are really made from the skins of sheep and goats, ought to be manufactured in the United States instead of being imported from England, where the price has recently advanced twenty-five per cent.

One of the most profitable as well as interesting kinds of business for a woman is the care of bees. In a recent agricultural report it is stated that one lady bought four hives for $10, and in five years she was offered $1,500 for her stock, and refused it as not enough, in addition to this increase of her capital, in one of those five years she sold 22 hives and 420 pounds of honey.

A series of experiments have recently been made by an English scientist to determine the degree of corrosion of iron plates in sea water alone and in contact with other metals. For equal surfaces and equal lines he obtained as results the following: Iron alone, 8.63; in contact with brass, 29.64; in contact with tin, 74.71; in contact with gun metal bronze, 65.39; in contact with copper, 42.79; in contact with lead, 47.90.

There is said to be on exhibition at a jewelry establishment in Cincinnati a watch which originally belonged to the first Napoleon, but was in 1812 or 1813 presented by him to one Wilhelm Behnen, of Nemwegen, in Holland, as a token of gratitude for the heroic action of the latter in saving the life of the Emperor in an accident on the occasion of his visit to that place. Herr Behnen was the great-grandfather of the present owner of the watch, Mr. J. F. Klarenaar, a German journalist of Cincinnati.

The death of thousands of the little sparrows that have done such good service in New York was one of the effects of the great snow storm in that city last week. They were unable to find a resting place for their feet, such was the violence of the storm and the depth of the snow.

The corn crop of the West this season was enormous and it is estimated that there is yet unshipped not less than 1,600,000,000 bushels. England stands ready to take 75,000,000 bushels of this corn if she can get it. She also wants 40,000,000 bushels of wheat and 200,000 tons of bacon, but there are not a sufficient number of vessels in the trade to deliver these products in time to meet her wants.

The Virginia City, Nevada, *Chronicle* states that half a dozen sand-spouts—columns of sand drawn up by whirlwinds—were seen on a recent afternoon on the Twenty-two-Mile Desert, lasting about an hour. They waltzed about, keeping always apart, and moving in the same direction, each apparently, a solid column ten feet in diameter and one thousand feet high. The top of these columns seemed to be cut off by a brisk breeze from the west, which carried the dust in clouds over the range of mountains lying to the east of the Sink of the Carson. Sometimes two of these "sand-spouts," or whirlwinds—call them what you may—come together, when they explode with a loud report, and both instantly disappear.

The Chicago *Tribune* sets down among the dangerous classes of large communities, architects and builders who do not understand their business; and thinks laws should be made to protect people from the fatal results of accidents arising from the ignorance or carelessness of these men.

The third great tunnel of the world, if completed, will be the Sutro, in Nevada, which is intended to supply air, drainage, and means of transit for ore, to the mines of the Comstock lode. Four miles will be the length of the main tunnel, and to this numerous branch tunnels must be added to strike the different claims. The Bank of California, the principal owner of the Comstock, has been from the first hostile to the tunnel project, and it was in spite of its earnest opposition that the work was commenced.

PERSONAL.

It is whispered that a proposition has been made by the proprietor of the New York *Herald* to Edmund Yates, the English novelist, to act as correspondent of that journal at the coming Vienna Exposition, a munificent salary being offered. Mr. Yates has not yet signified his intention in the matter. Should he not accept, he will visit California after the fulfillment of his lecture engagements, which run to the end of February.

A letter writer in the New York *Times* has discovered some curious coincidences in "The Wandering Heir," the new story by Charles Reade, just commenced in *Harper's Weekly*. Quoting from the first chapters of the story, he compares the text with Swift's "Journal of a Modern Lady," and shows that Mr. Reade has simply paraphrased the poem, and asks, "Is this plagiarism?" Now look out for two or three sharp letters from the crusty romancer, followed in all probability by a libel suit.

Among its other natural curiosities, San Francisco has a negro named Egoff, who, on a recent occasion, drank a gallon and a half of mixed liquors within a half hour. At another time he wagered that he could eat within one hour a fifteen pound turkey with stuffing and trimmings, two loaves of bread, a quart bottle of pickles, and drink two quarts of whisky served up in the form of hot sling. At the expiration of the hour he was declared the winner, having disposed of all the eatables and drinkables.

Dr. Edward Eggleston, late editor of the *Hearth and Home*, and author of the "Hoosier Schoolmaster" and other popular stories of Western life, has been engaged to write the life of Peter Cartwright, the pioneer of Methodism in the West. The writer and his subject are perfectly compatible. A native Western himself, and born and trained in Westerner Methodism, Dr. Eggleston knows well the genius of Cartwright, while the original frontier character is familiar to his memory.

Here is an enjoyable glimpse of the social life of a generation ago: An "old stager" in Washington, whose recollections reach back into the 40's, tells the readers of *Harper's Magazine* something about the times when it was whist, and not "draw poker"—with a frequent dash of faro—that furnished recreation for the erudite and astute legislators. Whist, he says, was a favorite game with the foreign ministers and the elder statesmen of a good many years ago. Mr. Clay, Gen. Scott, Mr. Bodisco and Minister Fox often played together, a hundred dollars being the usual stake. Gov. Marcy liked the game, but not the betting; Mr. Webster played it, but indifferently; and President Tyler gave many a rainy day to loo in the White House. Public opinion was in an amiable mood then as regarding gambling. At a party given by the wife of a cabinet minister, Mrs. Clay, chaperoning a young lady from the North, passed through a room where gentlemen were playing cards. Mr. Clay among the number. "Is this a common practice?" inquired the young lady. "Yes," said Mrs. Clay, "they always play when they get together." "Doesn't it distress you to have Mr. Clay gamble?" "No, my dear," said the good old lady, composedly, "he most always wins."

There died in Vermont last week an old lady who could count fifty-six continuous years of service in one family. She was for a period of forty-six years housekeeper in the family of Judge Baxter, now deceased, and for the past ten years, and up to the time of her death, with John N. Baxter, his son, making fifty-six years of continuous service with two generations of the same family.

The daughter of Gen. Birney, who for six months past has been preparing herself for journalism in Massachusetts, in learning the art of type-setting, has returned to her friends in Florida. She has been engaged to assist in editing a paper at the South.

A gentleman who has just returned from England, where he visited John Bright, says that the great statesman was much better than he had expected to find him. He has gained during the last three months more than during the years of his disability. He expects to take his seat in the House of Commons next session, though still uncertain how much he can do. Apparently there is no present loth about his entering office again.

George W. Julian, of Indiana, who at the beginning of the "Liberal" movement boasted that he would revolutionize the State against the Republican party, has fallen into such disfavor among his old neighbors that, it is stated, he is about to pull up stakes and take his departure for Texas.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

MULCH THE YOUNG TREES.

All young trees (viz., those one and two years planted, and especially those planted this past autumn) should now have four to six inches of some coarse manure, litter, etc., spread around them, and at the same time each tree carefully looked after that none of the mulch be nearer than four inches to the body of the tree. This latter item is to prevent injury from mice.

SAVING CLOVER SEED.

A Canada farmer hit upon the novel and ingenious method of putting a wire or sieve bottom in the bottom of a trough in which he fed his stock, the wire being two or three inches above the close bottom of the trough. The stock in pulling the clover hay from the rack would scatter the seed, almost pure, through the wire into the receptacle below. It is said to have saved quite a large amount of good seed in this way. This must be, but there is room for a query on the subject.

CLOVER FOR HOGS.

An Ohio hog-raiser advocates the system of pasturing on clover during the summer. He presents, as the advantage of this plan, the statement that an acre of ground in clover will pasture five hogs four months, and it will take the corn from half an acre to feed them the same time. The cultivation of the corn he counts equal to the rest of the other half acre. He further claims that hogs pastured on clover are in far better condition than if fed on corn, as they are better farmed, healthier, and eat better, and also states that the land is enriched by the clover pasturing.

MILK CELLAR.

A milk cellar will be coolest when well sunk into the earth, and not much above its surface. Eight feet would be a good depth. The windows near the top of the walls, should be protected from the sun, either by trees or shrubs, or with blinds or shades; and wire screens inside should be made to exclude all insects. Covering the bottom with hydraulic cement is not a good conductor of heat; it will render the cellar warmer in summer and cooler in winter, by preventing access to the earth. Good stone flagging would be better than common brick. There should be a ventilating flue run up from the upper part of the apartment, in which the current of air may be regulated by means of a register.

FATTENING HOGS.

A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* gives his experience as follows:—"I was just beginning to farm, and as I was desirous of knowing the best way of fattening hogs, I determined to try the different plans, and also how much pork a barrel of corn will make. I made a floored pen and covered it in. Weighed three hogs and put them in the pen. I also weighed the three of the same size and put them in a dry lot—average weight, one hundred and seventy-five lbs. I fed six barrels of corn to the six hogs. They were fed every day giving the corn, with plenty of salt and water. Their average gain was seventy-five lbs. The hogs in the lot gained the most. One that was fatted in the lot gain d eighty lbs. One in the pen gained eighty-four lbs.; the other four were not so thrifty.

DEVONSHIRE CREAM.

One of the noted luxuries of the London market is "Devonshire cream," or "clotted cream." The method of its preparation is as follows: From six to eight quarts of milk is strained into a thick earthenware pan or crock, which, when new, is prepared for use by being stood in clear cold water for several days, and then scalded three or four times with skimmed milk. Tin pans may be used if they are scalded in hot bran and left to stand with the bran in them for twenty-four hours. The milk being strained into the pan is stood in a cool room from nine to fourteen hours, according to the temperature. It is then carefully moved to the top of the stove or range, or placed over a bright fire (not too near it), and slowly heated—so that at the end of a half-hour the cream will have shrunken away from the side of the pan and gathered into large wrinkles. To make the cream thicker after commencing to simmer. The pan is then carefully returned to the cool room and left about ten hours, when the cream is skimmed off.

This cream is very delicious to eat on fruit or preserves, and is esteemed a great luxury—selling for about the price per pound of the best butter.

WIND DROPSY IN SHEEP.

Sheep are not unfrequently sufferers from wind dropsy. The symptoms, causes and degree of danger are like those of wind dropsy in cattle. It is most frequently produced by the excessive eating of young clover and other green food, especially if it is wet from rain or dew, and by grazing on stubble fields. As long as the distension of the stomach is only on the left side, there is no danger; but if the other side soon becomes distended, death may result. In mild cases the following treatment is adopted: The distended part of the stomach is strongly pressed and kneaded with the hands, which often causes repeated eructations and removes all danger. The sheep is led by a rope of twisted straw into a pond, or, if possible, into cool running water, and then kept in moderate motion. If no improvement takes place, a thin tube, provided with a small button of wood or linen, is introduced into the stomach through the mouth, which causes the air to escape in large quantity.

Internal remedies are beneficial, as, for example, a teaspoonful of burnt lime and water every ten or fifteen minutes, three fourths of a pint of soap suds, or a teaspoonful of mustard with brandy, etc. Indeed all the remedies given to cattle against this disease apply here, but only one-third or one-fourth the quantity is given to sheep that would be given to cattle under similar circumstances. If the disease runs very high, the same symptoms appear as in cattle, and death follows not unfrequently from bursting of the stomach. In such cases puncturing the belly is the only remedy, which is performed in essentially the same manner as for cattle. The trocliar to be used for sheep is four inches long and as thick as a medium sized quill. It is plunged into the most distended part of the body after removing the wool. When the gases have escaped, the trochar should be removed, because it is injurious to the animal if it remains in too long.

The operation easily becomes dangerous in sheep, which are more irritable than cattle. Nevertheless it is often the only means of saving the animal, and should always be performed when there is danger, because it may save the patient in a majority of cases. If no trochar is at hand, a penknife or other narrow cutting instrument may be employed, although with less advantage. After making an incision a thin tube is inserted in the opening. The wound heals of itself and may if necessary be covered with a little tar.

After the gasses have escaped, rumination ensues by returns immediately, and with it the appetite. A scanty and sparing diet at first, and salt licks, with the addition of bitter remedies, such as wormwood, calamus, etc., or tar, oil of turpentine, etc., complete the cure.—*American Stock Journal.*

TO DISTINGUISH GOOD CALICO.

The cost of a yard of calico is a matter of considerable importance to the consumer who studies economy; but unfortunately there are those who in wishing to practice frugality deceive themselves into the idea that because an article is low in price it must necessarily be cheap. The result of this is a demand upon the manufacturer for low priced goods and he, to keep pace with the wants of his customers, introduces into his wares, when practicable, certain preparations calculated to hide the flimsiness of the products he is thus called upon to supply.

This system of "dressing and finishing," as it is called, is practiced at the present time to a greater extent than ever it was before, owing to the enormous advance in the price of cotton of late years. The most common calicoes are "dressed" with flour, china clay, etc., and are generally so artfully "filled" with one or other preparations as to be very deceptive to the inexperienced eye.

When, however, such a dressed fabric comes to be washed, the "extra fine finished," as it is not infrequently called, disappears, leaving a soft, flabby and loosely woven texture in the hand, while the water in which it has been soaked is almost thick enough for bill sticking purpose. The finest "makes," on the contrary, contain scarcely any flour, and should never appear any worse for a soaking in the wash tub.

In order to ascertain to what extent a plain calico is finished, we have but to rub a small portion of the piece to be tested sharply between the finger and thumb of each hand, for this "makes the powder fly," as the Manchester men say. If it be of the most common quality, a quantity of "dress" will be extracted, and we shall soon see that the threads are left as far apart as those in a sieve, crossing each other unevenly, and on places going off, as it were, in tangents. Then, if we draw out a single thread and pull it asunder, it will be found to break with a snapping. If, on the contrary the calico is a good one, scarcely any dressing will come out of it on rubbing it; the threads will appear closely woven together, a single thread drawn out will rather burst than snap when pulled asunder, and the separate ends of such thread will present a fluffy appearance while the whole piece will be firm and elastic to the touch.

COLORING APPLES.

The San Jose *Mercury*, of December 3 says: "Charles Caine, who owns an extensive orchard near this city, has a method of giving to red, striped, and yellow apples a high coloring. The fruit is packed and laid upon the ground in long flat piles, under the half-shade of the trees. It is desirable to give them as much sunlight as they will bear without sunburning. In two or three weeks the apples on top will be highly colored. These are removed, boxed, and sent to market, and the next layer exposed to the sun. His apples thus colored, especially the Baldwins, Smith's Cider, and Spitzenbergs, challenge the admiration of all who see them. By this process, apples that when picked from the trees were almost without color, will become as brilliant as the reddest apple on the tree, and equally as fine as the best."

CHURNING.

During the process of churning, a certain uniformity of temperature must be observed, or the butter will be soft and spongy, instead of being firm and compact. The agitation, also, of the cream should be regular—neither too quick nor too slow. If the agitation is too quick, the butter will make and unmake itself before the churner is aware of it, as too rapid motion induces fermentation, which, when it has reached a certain point, is entirely destructive of and takes away the possibility of making even moderately good or well tasting butter. If, on the other hand, the motion be too slow, the agitators in the churn fail to produce the desired separation of the component parts of the cream, and the consequence is, that after a good deal of time spent in lazy action, the churner is just as far from his butter as he was at the beginning of his labors. The best temperature for the cream in churning is from fifty to sixty degrees.

"GASCONADE."

Hyperbole of Different Nations.

The Spaniards and the Gascons have been the greatest practicers of the art of hyperbole. In the seventeenth century a little book was published with the title "Al-man-sir, or Rhodomontades of the Most Horrible, Terrible and Invincible Captain Sir Frederick Fight-all." This contains many of the gasconades quoted in modern jest books. Here is one of these that has undergone various alterations: "If I come to thee with my foot I will kick thee so high into the air that, hadst thou ten cart loads of bread, thou should-st be in greater fear of starving than of falling." Another is an elaborate description of the vaporer's furniture. "My bedstead is made of the ribs of giants, the ticking of my bed is filled with the mustaches of the masters of the camp of the Grand Turk," and so on. The more modern versions of these stories gain much in form, as in the following instances: A Gascon, while skating was pushed down by an acquaintance; he got up, and said, in a rage, "It is very lucky for you, sir, that I don't dislike falling." An officer hearing some one celebrating the exploits of a prince who, in two assaults upon a town, had killed six men with his own hand, cried out, "Bah, I would have you to know that the very mattresses I sleep on are stuffed with nothing but the whiskers of those whom I have sent to slumber in the other world." Another Gascon, in proof of his nobility, asserted that "in his father's castle they used no other fire-wood than the batons of the different Marshals of France of his family." A soldier said "he had been in so many battles, and had been so battered with bullets, that he swore he had a mine of lead in his inside." The Greeks were great inventors of these sayings. On Dieneces, the Spartan, being told the number of Xerxes' army was so great that when they shot forth their arrows the sun would be darkened by their multitude, he answered, "If the Medes darken the sun, we shall have our fight in the shade." The American humor partakes slightly of this same character and extravagance, but it is, nevertheless, the growth of the soil. The vastness of the country, which is said to be bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the north by the aurora borealis, on the west by the setting sun and on the south by the day of judgment, and the peculiar circumstances in which the people are placed, can be traced in most of these stories. The hyperbolical or tall species of American humor, was much in vogue some years ago, and such stories as the following were once very common: "A man was so tall that he had to go up a ladder to shave himself." Another was so strong that his sneeze would kill a buffalo across the Mississippi river." "A Massachusetts pig was so lean that it was necessary to tie a knot in his tail to prevent it getting through the chinks of the railing." "An American artist painted a snow storm so naturally that he caught a bad cold by sitting near it with his coat off." "Some land was so rich that a squash vine, in its rapid growth, overtook a drove of pigs." "The reason why cream is so dear is that milk has risen so high the cream can't reach the top." There is a capital story, in which it is related that "a coach drove through the country so fast, and the milestones passed so quickly by, that the passengers thought they were in a churchyard." This coach, however, was beaten by the "skipper, which went so tarnation fast, that in sailing round Long Island she left her shadow three and a half miles behind her." Major N., when asked whether he was seriously injured by the explosion of the boiler of the St. Leonard steamer, replied, "that he was so used to be blown up by his wife that a mere steamer had no effect upon him." The evidence of a witness in a life insurance case, involved in the blowing up of a steamer on the Ohio, is droll, just because it is characteristic. The witness knew the missing man, and saw him on the deck of the steamer before the explosion. When asked by the lawyer, "What was the last time you saw him?" he answered, "The very last time I ever set eyes on him was when the boiler burst, and I was going up. I met him and the smoke-pipe coming down." It is not fair that the foreigners should have all the lies to themselves; so we will let the Englishman put in an appearance. A commercial traveler, boasting that he had spent £300 a year for writing ink alone, was answered: "During the last twelve months we have saved in that article alone £2,000, by merely omitting the dots to our i's and the crosses to our t's." One of the best specimens of rhodomontade is the following story, which we have not seen in print: Two men who were famous for their vaporing laid a wager as to who could tell the biggest lie. One said that he was in the mid ocean, far away from land, when he espied a man swimming. The ship was stopped, and preparations were made for taking the man in, when he cried out, 'I'm all right, and only want to know in the latitude and longitude; for I am swimming to England!' This seemed sufficiently improbable, but the other capped it by asking "whether his friend had seen the man again?" and being answered in the negative, said: "Then I am he."

THE "COMMERCIAL."

Good Words from Our Contemporaries.

[From the Massillon (O.) American]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is so generally taken throughout this part of Ohio that the announcement of its prospectus for the coming year is sufficient to remind our people that the time has come to renew their subscriptions, and for others, who wish to take a first-class daily, to try it. Its market reports are a great specialty, and its news and telegraphic columns are fully up to any paper in the country.

[From the Salem (O.) Republican.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is the leading daily in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, and is looked to more than any other journal for early news and correct market reports.

[From the Marietta (O.) Register.]

Parties wishing to take a Pittsburgh paper are referred to the prospectus of the COMMERCIAL. Farmers, rivermen and produce dealers will find the COMMERCIAL a readable, reliable paper, both for markets and general news. Many copies ought to be circulated in Washington county.

[From the Massillon (O.) Independent.]

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL is a very popular daily, as it always arrives by the first morning train, bringing the earliest news of the day.

[From the Johnstown Tribune.]

No paper west of the Allegheny mountains is more ably edited than the Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL, and none gives the news more fully and more correctly than it does. It is a large, live, active, independent Republican paper, which has done noble work for the party.

San Diego, about four hundred miles south of San Francisco, has one of the best harbors on the Pacific coast, where good harbors are remarkably scarce. The city is rapidly increasing in business and population, and new and substantial buildings are going up in every direction. It is to be the terminus of the Texas (Southern) Pacific Railroad, and it is altogether probable that the new railroad system of Mexico will center there. It is predicted that within ten years San Diego will occupy a commercial position second in importance only to San Francisco.

Protect Your Health.

Cold and moisture combined have a torporising effect upon the bodily organs, and the digestive and secretive processes are apt to be more tardily performed in winter than in the fall. The same is true, also of the excretory functions. The bowels are often sluggish, and the pores of the skin throw of but little waste matter at this season. The system, therefore, requires opening up a little, and also purifying and regulating, and the safest, surest, and most palatable tonic and alterative that can be used for these purposes is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. Persons who wish to escape the rheumatic twinges, the dyspeptic agonies, the painful disturbances of the bowels, the bilious attacks, and the nervous visitations, so common at this season of the year, will do well to reinforce their systems with this renowned vegetable stomachic and invigorant. It improves the appetite, strengthens the stomach, cheers the spirits, and renovates the whole physique.

FOR COUGHS AND COLDS
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IRA B. M'VAY & CO.,

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 30, 1872.

When Mr. Boutwell in his annual report to Congress advocated the proposition that the Secretary of the Treasury be empowered to expand and contract the currency, as seemed to him best, for the purpose of meeting the wants of the country in moving its grain and cotton crops, we took immediate occasion to say that so tremendous a power should be placed in the hands of no one man, and that although Mr. Boutwell might make judicious use of that power, yet we were not certain of always having so prudent a financier at the head of the Treasury Department. The events of the past two months have signally proved the truth of our assertion, and also demonstrated that Mr. Boutwell is not equal to the task of exercising that power for the general good. In October the Treasury Department made an over issue of legal tenders of from five to six millions of dollars by the purchase of bonds in the open market, and left the funds thus disbursed on deposit with certain banks in New York city. The issue having been made, the commercial interests of the country would have dictated that the whole of the six millions should be allowed to remain in the banks till January. To throw out this money from the banks, as has been done, was to make a gratuitous addition to the causes of stringency, which were too numerous before and are always powerful enough at the close of the year without any such unseasonable help. A further drain on the market has been caused by the weekly sale of $1,000,000 of gold, while bonds could not be bought at par in gold, thus locking up in the Treasury an additional four millions a month. While Mr. Boutwell has no doubt acted with the best intentions and with the purpose of reducing the greenback circulation to its legal limit, his course has been such as to play into the hands of a clique of disreputable speculators who look up money, create stringency and distrust for the purpose of depressing prices.

After the experience we have just had few persons will hereafter be found to advocate the confiding to the Secretary of the Treasury the paramount control of the money market, which was proposed in his report to Congress.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	114½
U. S. Bonds of 1867	112½
U. S. Bonds of 1864	112½
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	116½
U. S. Bonds of 1867	117½
U. S. Bonds of 1868	119½
10-40s	109½
New 5s	111½
Gold	112½
Currency 6s	112½

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	112¾
United States 6s of 1881	114¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	112¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	112¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	112¾
United States 10-40s	109¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	116¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	117¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	117¾
Currency Pacifics	112¾

—The anticipated decline in the Erie Railroad has at last occurred, but it has been a little earlier and sharper than was generally expected. A movement for the reduction of wages may now be looked for, and a gradual return to the general averages of former years. The decline is regarded as temporary in some quarters, and effected with a view of diminishing wages, but and the cost of production, when a further advance may be expected. But this view is inconsistent with the probabilities if not the facts of the case. Manufacturers generally resisted the decline as long as they could, and adopted the policy of reducing the product as far as possible rather than submit to the duty failed, as has been the case, and also demonstrated that Mr. Boutwell is not equal to the task of exercising that power for the general good. In October the Treasury Department made an over issue of legal tenders of from five to six millions of dollars by the purchase of bonds in the open market, and left the funds thus disbursed on deposit with certain banks in New York city. The issue having been made, the commercial interests of the country would have dictated that the whole of the six millions should be allowed to remain in the banks till January. To throw out this money from the banks, as has been done, was to make a gratuitous addition to the causes of stringency, which were too numerous before and are always powerful enough at the close of the year without any such unseasonable help. A further drain on the market has been caused by the weekly sale of $1,000,000 of gold, while bonds could not be bought at par in gold, thus locking up in the Treasury an additional four millions a month. While Mr. Boutwell has no doubt acted with the best intentions and with the purpose of reducing the greenback circulation to its legal limit, his course has been such as to play into the hands of a clique of disreputable speculators who look up money, create stringency and distrust for the purpose of depressing prices.

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	Morn.	Aft.
Gold	111¾	112
Canton		102
Western Union Tel		83½
Quicksilver	35¾	36
Pacific Mail	48¾	49
Adams Express	89½	90
Wells, Fargo Express	50	50
American Express	62½	63
United States Express	48	48
New York Central	96¾	96¾
Erie	26¾	26¾
Hudson River	110	110
Michigan Central	114	114
Illinois Central	132	132
Cleveland and Pittsb'h	93	93½
Chicago and Northwest	83¾	84
Do preferred	111½	111½
Rock Island	103	103
St. Paul	37½	38
Do preferred	82½	82½
Wabash	37	37
Do. Preferred	85¾	85¾
Fort Wayne	96¾	96¾
Ohio and Mississippi	30¾	30¾
Union Pacific	84¾	85
Canadas	111	111
Do. preferred	114	
Boston, Hartford & Erie		
Harlem	114½	
New Jersey Central	102	

Messrs. Robinson Bros., bankers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following telegraphic report of quotations of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

Penn's Central	56¾	Phila. and Erie	27¾
Reading	98¾	Lehigh Navigation	37½
United Co's of N.J.	121	Pittsburgh 6s	94
Oil creek & A. V. R. R.	54¾	Do. 7s	94½
Lehigh Valley R. R.	68¾	Central Transp'n	47

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, December 30.—Cotton—Demand fair and prices advanced; middling 19¾c. Flour—Dull and unchanged. Groceries quiet and steady. Eggs—Demand good at 28c. Mess pork scarcer at $17 25, but no sales at 25c. Lard—Prime kettle rendered nominal at 13¾@14c; steam firm at 13@13½c. Bulk meats and bacon steady and unchanged, sides meats held firmly; hams 14c. Hogs—Active at $5 80@6 00. Whisky steady, with a moderate demand at 90c.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 30, 1872.

REMARKS—As we write, late in the evening, snow is falling, and has been at intervals during the day. The weather has moderated considerably, and there is a bare possibility that the severe cold spell will ere long give way to mild weather which will insure the resumption of river navigation.

The railroads, on account of snow and ice, find it utterly impossible to move all the freight thrown upon the roads, hence dealers in flour and other needed products are compelled to bide their time. We may add that no fault is found with the roads, all dealers believing that they are doing the best they can to facilitate business. But just now the weather seems master of the situation.

The receipts of wheat, corn and oats continue to be extremely light, but one car of wheat having arrived at the grain elevator for the past three days, and the amount on track is correspondingly light. Oats are in good demand, with the stock on hand not fully up to the wants of the trade. Corn—shelled and ear—is in fair demand, and prices are firm and tend upward.

Grocery dealers report a very quiet market, and no changes in prices. The trade is looked upon as being dull, though not more so than was to have been expected at this season of the year, coupled with ice-bound rivers and a very stringent money market.

Butter and eggs—prime articles—continue short of the demand, and will doubtless so continue until there is a change in the weather and a resumption of navigation.

The supply of poultry is light, and the same is true of game, and those who were fortunate enough to have a stock on hand, find a ready sale at full prices. Game and wild fowl is in fair supply and meets a ready sale.

Bacon and Provisions.—It is expected that the new curing will come upon the market in full volume within the next twenty days. The stocks are large and have been cured and prepared with a direct view to the wants and desires of this community, and for which we anticipate a large sale.

Apples, and all other fruits and vegetables liable to injury by frost, are in light receipt and have to be handled carefully. All packages, guaranteed, meet with a ready sale at fair prices.

Below will be found the wholesale prices, unless special mention is made to the contrary:

ALES—X, $2 9 bbl; half do $4 50; XX, $10 ⅌ bbl; half do $5. Lotta ale, $11 ⅌ bbl; $5 50 for half do. Porter $10 ⅌ bbl. When packages are returned $8 will be allowed on barrels and $2 00 for half do.

APPLES—Receipts 65 bbls. Prime, not injured by the frost, $5 00@5 25 ⅌ barrel; common $2 00@2 50.

ASHES—Pearls 11c@11½c; seconds and 4½ @5c; pearls 6c@6½c; thirds soda 4½@5c; arsenic 6½@7c.

APPLE BUTTER—We quote at 55@56c per gallon.

BEANS AND PEAS—Prices rule uniform with sales as follows: Sugar cured hams 14½c; sugar cured shoulders 12c; plain shoulders 6c; breakfast bacon 14½c; mess pork $14 50; rib sides 9c; clear rib sides 9½c; clear sides 10c; dried beef 18c; ham sausage 10c; lard, in tier es, 8½c; in bbls 8¾@9c; in kegs 9½@10c; pickled pigs 10½c; pigs feet, $2 50 per keg; pigs feet, per half bbl, $1 50; hocks, 3½c.

BUTTER—The supply is nearly if not fully up to the demand, and we are reported sales at 26@28c ⅌ lb for choice roll; medium 24@25c; common 20@23c.

BRANS—There is a continued good demand at $2 70@2 80 for navy white; $2 60 for common ⅌ bushel.

CHEESE—13@16c ⅌ lb.

CIDER AND CIDER VINEGAR—Sales 1 lb cans at $6 00 ⅌ doz; ½ lb cans $3 25 ⅌ doz; ¼ lb cans $1 75 ⅌ doz. Bulk—Cider, 30c ⅌ gallon; cider vinegar 25c.

COUNTRY MEATS—S. for hams; clear sides 6½c; shoulders 5½c. Lard 7@7½c ⅌ lb.

CEMENT—Calcined plaster $4 25@4 50 ⅌ bbl; Beeson's hydraulic cement $2 00@2 25; Louisville $3 00@3 75; Rosendale $4 00@4 25.

CANDLES—Stearine at 14½@15c ⅌ lb; mould 13c; star 21½@22c.

CHEESE—Prime New York State 16½@17c; Ohio Go-ben 15½@16c; Dairy 13½@14c; Factory 14¼ @15c. Receipts light.

CORN—Sales 50 quality, at $5 87 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES—Choice berries find a ready market at $14@15 ⅌ bbl; cultivated and common $9@13 ⅌ bbl.

CARBON OIL—Sales round lot standard brands at 22½c; job lots 23@25c ⅌ gallon.

CONDENSED LYE—A fair trade is reported at $5 ⅌ case.

DRESSED HOGS—The ruling of the market is 5c 6½c ⅌ lb.

EGGS—Fresh 34@35c ⅌ dozen; limed 27@30c.

FEATHERS—No. 1 live geese feathers 72@75c ⅌ lb to the trade with the usual advance for jobbing lots.

FISH—White fish at $5 50 ⅌ half barrel; mackerel, shore, $26@28 per barrel; No. 1 bay $17@18; No. 2 shore, medium, $13@14; No. 3 large, $10; small packages, $4 75, and $7 in bbls; new cod fish $6 50@7 for medium; new Labrador split $8 50@9 00; new Labrador $7 50@8.

FLOUR—Market quiet to-day, dealers reporting stocks fairly low, but say buyers confine to immediate delivery. All parties seem anxious to carry over into the new year as light a stock as possible. An advance in western brands is also anticipated, as fancy white flours are scarce and will likely go out of use to a very great extent during the coming month, as the prices will range too high for the masses who will fall back on spring wheat flour for bread use. We quote Penn Mills $9 to $10; Iowa City $8 50; Rising Sun $8; Minnesota Island $8; Early Rose $7 50. Rye flour $5 25. Buckwheat flour 4½c ⅌ lb.

GROCERIES—Market unchanged in every respect. We quote as follows:

SUGARS—Knight's yellow 8½c; Knight's extra C 10¾c; Demarara 11¾@11¾c; Monumental C 11¾c; A 13 8, extra C, 11¾c; extra C, 12½c; white A 12½c; confectionary A 12¾c; crushed 13½c; granulated 13¾c; powdered 13¾c; cut loaf 14¾c; New Orleans, prime to choice, 9@10c.

COFFEE—Fancy Rio coffee 24½c; prime 23@24½c; good 21@23½c; fair 20@20½c; roasted, house, 24¾c; roasted, in packages, 26c.

SYRUP—Orleans—prime 70c; choice 75c; Union 72c; II & Extra 55c; inferior 50c; Reverie 55c; maple 60c; extra maple 65c; common 50@55c.

RICE—Carolina 9@10c; Rangoon 6½@7c.

GRAIN—The receipts of grain, in sacks and bulk exclusive of elevator, since our last, were as follows:

Wheat, sacks	170	Corn, sacks	168
Oats, sacks	291	Barley	10
Rye	40		

The above shows no arrivals of grain at the Elevator since our last report. We have no changes to note in prices, and quote nominally as follow: Wheat—Prime $1 25@1 30; choice $1 20@1 25; fair $1 15@1 20. Shelled corn 60c@62c; ear corn, 50c; 52@55c. Rye 85@90c. Oats—Mixed to prime white 42@43c, good 41@42c; fair 39@40c. Barley—Fall $1 30@1 40 ⅌ bush.

HAY—Baled, on track, as to quality and condition, $22@32 per ton; wagons $25@44.

HONEY—Sales in a small way at 28@30c ⅌ lb.

HOMINY—Demand fair at $5 25@5 50 ⅌ bbl.

HOPS—Firm at 36@40c for 1872's and 10@12c for 1871's ⅌ lb.

LIME—For Cleveland white there is a fair demand at $1 ⅌ bbl; country, $1 10.

LARD OIL—No. 1 extra 70@75c ⅌ gallon; No. 2 do 65c.

MILL FEED—Sales bran at $1 15@1 20 ⅌ cwt.; middlings $1 30@1 45, as to quality; coarse feed $1 30@1 40.

MINCE MEAT—Sales of choice brands at 12½ ⅌ lb.

ONIONS—Silver skins $2 75@3 25 ⅌ bbl; yellow $2 00@2 75, reds $2 00@2 50.

POTATOES—Sales at 55@60c ⅌ bushel; Jerseys $5 00@5 25 ⅌ bbl.

POULTRY—Live chickens 40@50c ⅌ pair; dressed, fresh, 12@13c; dressed turkeys 15@18c; ducks 13 @14c.

PORK—Held at 13½@13¾c ⅌ lb.

SALT—We are reported sales extra No 1 at $1 42 @1 45; No 1, $1 55.

SPUDS—Sales at $6 00 ⅌ case of 6 doz.

SEEDS—Flaxseed $1 85@1 90.

TALLOW—Sales at 8@8½c ⅌ lb.

WHISKY—Highwines 90@93c ⅌ gall.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, TUESDAY, December 31, 1872.

REMARKS—The oil market at the present writing is in the unsettled condition that correct figures are hard to be obtained. Operators doing business here and sellers are not in the humor to be very communicative on the oil subject. Parker's nominal at $5 75@5 75 ⅌ bbl. For prices in other parts of the oil regions see our dispatches.

REFINED.

Nothing doing is the answer to inquiries about oil. Standard brands are quoted in the East at 26@26½c, without transactions. This means a dull market all round. There is no export demand.

OIL BARRELS

are quiet and prices unchanged. Holders appear more anxious to realize. We quote: City make $1 12@2 15; country $2 00@2 10.

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—The *Courier* says: The market was quiet, buyers on the upper road paying 6¾ @7 75. At the close sellers were asking $2 80. At Oil City the bids were $2 90, with sellers asking $3 10, closing firmer at every point. Sales:

200 bbls Upper road, spot	$2 80
200 bbls Upper road	2 75
1,000 bbls Upper road	2 75
1,000 bbls Oil City	3 00
500 bbls Oil City	3 05

NEW YORK, December 30, Closing 25—Crude is thick steady with more inquiry, but the market is dull at 11½@12c; spot 11¾c for next month; refined unchanged; No. 1 New Jersey 23½c; common to choice 23@24c. Philadelphia delivery unchanged; re fined 26@26½c.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—Market quiet, dull and price is unquotable.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 30.—No market.

ROUSEVILLE, December 30.—Market very quiet—no sales—Gath's quote.

OIL CITY, December 30.—Market dull at $3 00; lower road $2 80; upper road $2 75@2 80.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—Market dull; S. W. 25c; crude 10c; cases 20c.

[By Pacific and Atlantic Telegraph line.]

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—Market dull at 6¾.

TITUSVILLE, December 30.—Market nominally at 22 50.

PHILADELPHIA, December 30.—Refined 27c; crude 11½c.

OIL CITY, December 30.—Market about $2 95@3 00; market dull and weak.

Trade Oil Received by A. V. R. R.

Shippers.	Consignees.	Barrels.
Citizens' Oil Works	Citizens' Oil Works	1,350
Foster Bros	D P Reighard	70
Fisher Bros	Fisher Bros	80
J McKelvey	Cosmos Oil Works	148
A V Rr	Commercial Oil Works	229
Aladdin Oil works	Eclipse Oil Works	392

Crude Oil Received by Rail and River.

Bbls.	Bbls.
Citizens' Oil Works 1,350	D P Reighart 70
Fisher Bros 80	Cosmos Oil Works 297
Commercial Oil Wks 297	Eclipse Oil Works 237
Total	2,389

Shipments of Refined Oil East via A. V. R. R., W. P. R. R. and P. R. R.

WEST PENN JUNCTION, December 28, 1872.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Central Refining Co.	Logan Brech Co, Phila	50
Vesta Oil Works	Starling, King & Co, Phila	250
Irwin & Co	Warting, King & Co, Phila	252
Hasten & Wilson	Starling, King & Co, Phila	100
Adams' Oil Co	J R McKee, New York	100
Total		1,550

HOP MARKET.

NEW YORK.

December 28.—The market remains firm, although the severe storm has very much interfered with business in the interior. Sales at auction at 45@50 cents, and about 150 pockets English at 46c.

The following is from Mr. Emmet Wells's circular of 26th inst.:

	Bales.
Receipts for the week	945
Receipts for the corresponding week, 1871, 1872	412
Total receipts since Sept. 1st, 1872	15,886
Total receipts for same period in 1871	21,460
Receipts for the week	2,551
Total in ports since Sept. 1st, 1872	8,938
Total exports since Sept. 1st, 1872	1,934

Trade is quiet, December 9—Business in hops now quiet, and consumers who have not secured their season's supply seemed resolved to defer further purchases. Growers, however, express confidence in the maintenance of the present advanced prices, on account of the great reduction in stock. On the Continent there is much excitement, and a further rise of fully 10 ⅌ cwt, stimulated by the recent condition of affairs on this market. Shipments continue to be made in American, both of English and European hops.

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, December 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged in every respect. Wheat—Demand fair and market firm; No 1 Milwaukee $1 28; No 2 no 1 Fall Duke—Demand active and prices advanced to 26@26½c. Corn dull and unsettled; No 2 mixed 18½c. Rye steady, with a moderate demand; No 1, 70c. Barley—Demand fair and market firm; fall No 2, 70c.

Cleveland Market.

CLEVELAND, December 30.—Flour firm with an upward tendency. Wheat quiet; No 1 red winter $1 70; No 2 do held at $1 55. Corn steady, with a moderate demand at 45c. Oats quiet; No 1, 37c; No 2, 36c. Petroleum—Refined quiet and steady; standard white 23@23½c; prime white 23@23½c, cases 30c.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, December 30.—Flour—Demand fair and market firm. Wheat lc higher; amber Michigan $1 69½; No 2 red $1 60. Corn a shade higher; high mixed, new, 37@37½c; low mixed, new, 37c. Oats dull and prices nominal. Clover seed $5 75. Dressed hogs $4 40@4 50.

ALLEGHENY LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 30, 1872.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle by rail from different points amounted to some twenty cars, or about four hundred head. In addition to these, there were a few drove in from the surrounding county, probably one hundred head, making a total of five hundred head on sale at the opening this morning.

The quality of the stock generally was common, but few good to prime cattle being among the lots offered.

Trade opened up slow at seven o'clock and continued so until the close. The butchers, judging from their actions, were evidently not in want of many cattle, as they held back and purchased at very low figures. Prices were fully as low on common cattle as they have been any time this fall. Trade, as above noted, dragged slow until twelve o'clock, at which time several of the drovers had parts of droves unsold.

The butchers complained of hard meat markets, and, of course, while the poultry season lasts, they cannot sell the quantity of meat they usually do, and must limit their purchases, as at the present price of feed it does not pay to keep stock ahead.

At this writing the butchers are better cleaned of State cattle than for the last six months, and a light run or two would make a wonderful improvement in trade.

Some transient drovers arrived with droves from the West, expecting a light run this week on account of the holidays. While the run was light, the demand was correspondingly so, and we do not think they could have come in a worse time.

The run fair. The demand was moderate this week for good bulls, and bad on common and inferior ones. Prices range from $2 50 to $4 00, according to quality, kind, &c.

Fresh Cows.

The demand for fresh cows was not so good this week as it has been for some time past. However, no difficulty was experienced in selling the best grades. Common duller, and prices to-day a shade lower.

PRICES.

Extra 1,400 lbs cattle $6; extra 1,300 lbs cattle $5 50 @6 75; extra 1,200 lbs cattle $5 00@5 25; prime 1,100 lbs cattle $5 25 to $5 75; fair 1,000 lbs cattle $4 75 to $5 00; common $4 00 to $4 50; bulls $2 50 to $4 00; stockers $3 75 to $4 25; old cows $3 50 to $5 75; fresh cows per head $25 to $65.

Arrivals.

Following will be found the arrivals of live stock at the Allegheny yards for the week ending to-day:

CATTLE.	Head.
H Bradding, Washington county	11
D. Jarman, Washington county	7
J. Hawkins, Washington county	45
Keller & Kuhn, Chicago	Cars.
M. Varner, Chicago	1
W. Fry, Crestline	3
Marks & Bro., Crestline	3
S. Jo. Bates, Cana Dover	1
Goff & Reid Dover	1
S Porter, Atwater	1
Hessler & Newport	1
I Miller, Bedair	1
D. Sipe air, Bellair	1
W. H. Thompson, Bellair	1
John Sheppard, Bellair	1
J. Hockins, Bellair	1
I. H. Frances, Bellair	1
Total	82
HORSES.	
D. Kerr, Marion	1
HOGS.	
P. M. Snyder, Orrville	9
Orr & Williams, East Liberty	2
J. Hutchins, East Liberty	8
C. Oswell, East Liberty	2

Cattle Sales.

J. Needy sold 20 head Ohio cattle at figures running from $4 75 to $6 75 per hundred lbs.

Grosvenal & S. sold 49 head Chicago cattle at figures running from $5 50 to $7 00 per hundred lbs.

Soller, H. & Co. sold 70 head Ohio cattle, common to good, at figures from $3 50 to $6 75 per hundred lbs.

Marks & B. sold 43 head.

H. Bliss, L. & Co. sold 5 head Washington county cattle from $5 25 to $6 50.

M. Varner sold 31 head Chicago cattle at prices ranging from $5 50 to $7 00.

D. Kuns sold 1 load Ohio cattle at from $4 75 to $5 75.

L. & Zeigler sold 21 head country cattle at prices from $4 to $5 50.

E. Katz sold 12 head common Ohio cattle at from $4 00 to $5 00.

Troutman sold 16 head Chicago cattle at from $5 25 to $6 25.

Hazlewood & B. sold 50 head Ohio and West Virginia stock at figures from $3 25 to $6 50.

J. Ho ines sold 21 head Washington county cattle at from $4 to $5 one hundred lbs.

W. Kaufman sold 6 head common cattle from $4 to $5.

Orr & W. sold 17 head cattle at figures ranging from $4 to $5 50.

D. Fleming sold 12 head Washington county cattle at prices from $4 to $5 50.

D. Mike sold 10 head common cattle at from 4 to 5c.

R. Frater sold 10 head Ohio cattle from $5 00 to $6 00.

John Shephard wholesaled 1 load Ohio cattle to W. Moonschine at $5 ⅌ hundred lbs.

The number of sheep on sale to-day was small, amounting all told to about 300 head. The market was dull and slow, and notwithstanding the small supply on sale, fully 200 head were driven in to country unsold. Prices ranged from $2 00 per head for scrawny pigs to $6 00 per 100 lbs for fine wool sheep, weighing 100 lbs.

Hogs.

The number of hogs on sale to-day was fair and principally in the hands of regular dealers. Trade ruled slow, and sales in a retail way ranged from $4 25 to $4 75.

IRON MARKETS.

BOSTON.

December 28.—The demand for iron continues very moderate, though no more so than is usual in December. We mentioned last week an improving feeling in the market for refined bar as a few foreign advices. We have to note a continuance of this feeling and a strong upward tendency, the result of cable advices announcing an increase of £1 per ton in England. There has been as yet, little or no advance in prices here, except that weare list rates have been shaved for the last few weeks on sizes which were plenty, full list is as are now offering, As assortments are back broken now, and it can be but a few months before the will be a lively demand for use in the trade. In the burnt district, the advance in England, it would seem, must bring a corresponding one here, especially as from cost of land down here for sorting of rags. There is little reason to doubt the general influence abroad will be favorable to the "quarterly meetings," which settles prices for three months for the succeeding three months, which are as follow: For the Birmingham district, January 9; for the Wolverhampton district January 8; Walsall, January 7; Staffordshire, January 10.

The location market for pig iron is quiet, and prices are unchanged. Included in the forgings for sale in Scotch is the home price of which tends upward. There is very little pig iron coming to hand, and will not be for a few weeks. The labor and coal question will enter as an important element in the settlement of prices of foreign kind of for the next few months, and the future is uncertain though prices tend upward. Some idea of the importance of the labor combination may be formed from the fact that the Birmingham meeting of the Amalgamated Society of Ironmasters, held at Birmingham, December 3, was attended by delegates from all the principal iron districts in the country, representing more than 16,000 members, an increase of 13,000 during the past year. The Scotch pig iron is unchanged and quiet.

We quote yearlings of American at $75 ⅌ ton; No 1 foundry, $70; No 2 do, $65; No 3 do, $60; No 4 do, $55; scotch is held firmly. We quote Eglinton at $22 50. Gartsherrie at $23 00@23 00, Gartsherrie a $25 00@25 00.—*Commercial Bulletin.*

NEW YORK.

December 28.—The market for Scotch pig is very quiet, buyers only pursuing for actual wants. Later advices per cable quote a rise in mixed numbers to 104s, but this has made no particular change here, except perhaps that holders are a little firmer without sales. Stocks are light, but there are still ideas for the present demand. We quote: Clyde 48s, Glengarnock $50, Gartsherrie and Coltnes $55; but these quotations are nominal, and more than these bills are bought for. American pig the market is irregular and nominal, and some companies are selling for the best price obtainable, and others a shade under to effect private terms. We quote No. 1 nominally $45@49 ⅌ $4440@45, and grey forge $40@45. Old and new scotch rails are quiet at previous figures. In steel rails there is nothing doing that we could learn. There has been no opportunity for business, Christmas as we are now storing everything any movement of goods in this line.—*Shipping L.*

EUROPEAN.

Late advices from Birmingham, England, by mail indicate a fair amount of business at full prices—the market tending upward. Among the trade a feeling seemed to exist that the price of coal would be likely to go higher rather than lower, and this, together with the increased cost of labor has doubtless caused the advance in iron.

At Sheffield the iron masters have done their "level best" to obtain a reduction in the cost of fuel, but thus far unsuccessfully, and business is so dull that some of the mills are stopping, while others are reducing their force of hands, as few orders are received. The demand for steel in Sheffield is also reasonably reduced, with little prospect of any improvement.

WOOL MARKETS.

BOSTON.

December 28.—The wool market has been very quiet the past week, and but for one transaction the sales would have footed up smaller than for several weeks. Prices of fleece wools are very well maintained, as a rule, and sales are fairly active for the last week. As is usual at the close of the year there are some lots on the market which can be bought a little under the ruling rate. The bulk of trade for the past two weeks has been on the cash order, and few round lots have changed hands. Buyers are in the market every day, looking for desirable lots, and, when they find them, making offers upon them. Sometimes these are accepted, but many dealers prefer to wait for the chance of still other year, anticipating some improvement then. The stocks and assortments are in the dozen and are in the main, such as buyers can use. In one thing they desire, choice Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces are scarce at from 65@66c. Pulled, with sales in small lots only.

During the past three weeks there have been considerable sales of "fall clip" California. The purchases show a wide range of prices, corresponding with the different lots and qualities of wools. Sales of the "fall clip" now on the market is very good, and brings a price nearly equal to that of the "spring clip" of "spring clip" before the fire. There is very little of the latter in the market.

In Cape wool there has been the largest sale of the season, 425,000 pounds. The amount sold is the only circumstance in connection with the transaction which has been made public. Cape wools are not quite steadily, and sales are made of small lots at from 23c to 26c. The lot reported sold as above at 26c was probably of fine quality, as offers of 25c for round lots have been refused. There is an improved inquiry for Montevideo wools, from manufacturers of clothing goods.

Receipts for the week ending December 28, foot up 1,097,000 pounds domestic and 10,000 foreign.

Sales for the week foot up 956,000 pounds domestic and 425,000 foreign. Included in the foreign sales are 300,000 pounds Cape wools at 25c.

Stocks of fleece wools, in bonded warehouse, on the 28th inst., are reported at 4,250,000 pounds. The following are the receipts since Sept. 1st, 1872:

Total receipts since Sept. 1st, 1872	9,938
Total exports since Sept. 1st, 1872	1,934

TUESDAY, December 29.—Business in hops now quiet, and consumers who have not secured their season's supply seemed resolved to defer further purchases. Growers, however, express confidence in the maintenance of the present advanced prices, on account of the great reduction in stock. On the Continent there is much excitement, and a further rise of fully 10 ⅌ cwt, stimulated by the recent condition of affairs on this market. Shipments continue to be made in American, both of English and European hops.

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, December 30.—Flour quiet and unchanged in every respect. Wheat—Demand fair and market firm; No 1 Milwaukee $1 28; No 2 no 1 Fall Duke—Demand active and prices advanced to 26@26½c. Corn dull and unsettled; No 2 mixed 18½c. Rye steady, with a moderate demand; No 1, 70c. Barley—Demand fair and market firm; fall No 2, 70c.

Cleveland Market.

CLEVELAND, December 30.—Flour firm with an upward tendency. Wheat quiet; No 1 red winter $1 70; No 2 do held at $1 55. Corn steady, with a moderate demand at 45c. Oats quiet; No 1, 37c; No 2, 36c. Petroleum—Refined quiet and steady; standard white 23@23½c; prime white 23@23½c, cases 30c.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, December 30.—Flour—Demand fair and market firm. Wheat lc higher; amber Michigan $1 69½; No 2 red $1 60. Corn a shade higher; high mixed, new, 37@37½c; low mixed, new, 37c. Oats dull and prices nominal. Clover seed $5 75. Dressed hogs $4 40@4 50.

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 111⅞@112.

NEW YORK, December 30, 1872—P. M.

MONEY.

Money stringent—loaned as high as ¾ per cent. per day, and closed at 1-16 and interest.

EXCHANGE.

Sterling exchange lower and steady at 109¾ for long and 110¾@110⅞ for short sight.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 111⅞, fell to 111¾, advanced to 112⅜, and closed at 111⅞@112. Loans 6 per cent. to 1-32 per diem for carrying. Clearings $87,000,000. Treasury disbursements $850,000.

GOVERNMENTS.

Governments more active and very firm.

U. S. coupons 1881	118	5-20s, 1867	117¾
5-20s, 1862	112½	5-20s, 1868	117¾
5-20s, 1864	112¾	New 5s	111¾
5-20s, 1865	112¾	10-40s	109¾
5-20s, 1865, new	116¾	Currency 6s	112¾

STATE BONDS.

State bonds dull and steady. Tennessee and Virginia consols heavy.

Missouri 6s	95¾	Virginia, old	45
Tennessee, old	78	North Carolina, old	34¾
Tennessee, new	78	North Carolina, new	19
Virginia, new	59		

STOCK EXCHANGE.

Stocks still dull; opened a trifle better, subsequently lost more than the advance, but closed higher than the lowest figures and very firm. Northern Central very strong at one per cent. advance. Pacific irregular, opened at 75⅞, fell to 75, advanced to 75¾, fell to 73⅞ and closed at 74¾. Erie opened at 26⅞, advanced to ⅞ and closed at 26¾. Western Union sold from 81 down to 80, closing at 80¾. In the rest of the list fluctuations did not exceed ⅜ to ⅝ per cent.

Canton	102	St. Paul	53¾
Western U. T. Co	80¾	do pref	77
Quicksilver	36	Pacific Mail	74¾
Adams Express	90	Ft. Wayne	94
Wells, Fargo & Co	85½	Chicago & Alton	111¾
U. S. Express	49¾	do pref	114
Pacific Mail	74¾	Ohio & Mississippi	48¾
New York Central	95½	Burlington & Quincy	117
Erie	26¾	Panama	95¾
do pref	77	Panama	96
Harlem	114	Illinois Central	132

THE VERY LATEST.

A TERRIBLE ACT.

A Woman Cuts Her Child's Throat and Then Her Own, in a Fit of Desperation.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, O., December 30, 1872.

At Mechanicsburg, Ohio, last evening, a colored woman named Bowson, in a fit of rage or insanity, cut the throat of her child and then performed a similar operation upon herself. The injuries were not thought fatal at first, but at a late hour this evening it is stated that both mother and child will die. Cruelty on the part of her husband is the cause of his wife's terrible act.

The Utah Avalanche—Small-pox Scare—Governor of Utah.

SALT LAKE, UTAH, December 30.—It has been ascertained that eleven men were buried in the Cottonwood snow slide, some of them being strangers from the East. But three bodies as yet have been found. Three more slides are reported on Sunday. One man was carried down but was rescued without having sustained serious injury.

The small-pox scare seems to have been a false alarm, as there are but one or two cases known.

The *Tribune* of to-day strongly advocates the appointment of the senior member of W. Walker Brothers for Governor of Utah, upon the principle that citizens of the Territory should hold the official positions.

The Arkansas Injunction Case.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., December 30.—The injunction case of Judge Harrison against the Governor, Secretary of State and others came up before Judge Caldwell this morning. The respondent asked time to file an answer, and, after argument, the Judge granted the motion, to be heard on Wednesday, the first. The two persons against whom the injunction is desired, Judges Searle and Stephenson, will go into office as Associate Justices of Supreme Court. The Legislature meets on Monday. Already a large number of members have arrived.

Compromise Effected.

NEW ORLEANS, December 30.—*A compromise* has been effected in the case of McKee versus Weed, by which Weed and others relinquish the entire establishment of the New Orleans *Times* to the heirs of W. H. C. King, its former proprietor. Its publication will be resumed on January 1st, with M. F. Bigney, editor, and Henry Green, business manager, as heretofore.

A Turkish Betrothal.

An English lady, who was present, sends an account of the betrothal of Khalil Pasha with the Princess Nazel, daughter of Mustapha Fazil, which took place at Constantinople on October 14th. She says that the bride was dressed with exquisite taste in a blue satin robe, covered with jewels of point lace. On her neck was a diamond necklace of great value, and on her head a diadem of the same precious stones. Her superb mass of light hair and her fair complexion made her one of the loveliest brides imaginable. Attendants spread on the floor rich Cashmere shawls, and the Princess appeared and advanced to her mother, whose hands she kissed. While that ceremony was being performed, eunuchs threw in the air numerous gold coins, which were picked up by the slaves either as mementos or as gratuities. All the company expressed in the hope that the future spouse may always be fortunate. We were then introduced into another room, where some Arab musicians were concealed behind a grating, and played a march at the same time. After having listened to those strange strains for half an hour, we passed into a full of sweetmeats, we passed into another apartment, where a sumptuous repast awaited us. After dinner we all met in the garden, and the coffee was served up by a white slave, who superintended a buffet covered with a cloth embroidered with gold and enriched with diamonds, emeralds, and other precious stones, on which was placed the coffee in cups of Sevres, with sapphire, gold and jewels, the commonest of which was worth £100. These were handed round with cigarettes for those ladies who like to smoke. Then four white female dancers were brought in to amuse the company. Afterwards a necklace fell while in full flight, studded with large brilliants, which must have cost a fortune, was brought in to be admired by the persons present. This was the only accident made to the future husband to his intended wife.

DAILY REPORT

OF THE STAGE OF WATER, WITH CHANGES IN THE 24 HOURS, ENDING 3 P. M., DECEMBER 30, 1872.

	Above Low Water.	Changes.			
		Rise.		Fall.	
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	
St. Paul	4	3	0	0	0
Fort Benton	0	0	0	0	0
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0
Davenport	0	0	0	0	0
Leavenworth	0	0	0	0	0
Keokuk	0	0	0	0	0
Cairo	0	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	0	0
Cincinnati	15	2	0	0	0
Louisville	6	0	0	0	0
Memphis	2	0	0	0	0
Vicksburg	2	0	0	0	0
Shreveport	0	1	0	0	0
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0
New Orleans	15	2	0	1	0

*Gorged.

W. E. SMITH,
Observer Sig. Ser. U. S. Army.

ADDITIONAL RIVER DISPATCHES.

The Gorge at Randolph Thirty Feet High—Seven Persons Lost.

MEMPHIS, December 30.—At 2 P. M. the ferry boat Excelsior sprung a leak and is sinking rapidly; she will prove a total loss. She is valued at $7,500 and belongs to Fatherson & Co., Louisville. Parties who left Randolph yesterday morning say the ice is gorg-d there thirty feet high and that a flatboat with seven persons on board was caught and all lost. This news causes great excitement here among steamboatmen. The river is rising rapidly. A steady rain fell during the night which has softened the ice, causing large quantities of it to slough off and sink, and the danger to boats is in part greatly lessened. It is now probable that the ice in the Mississippi will not gorge at all. The river is rising steadily and the floating ice is diminishing steadily. Tichnor Bender, from New Orleans, arrived last night and Belle Lee this morning. The officers of the latter report having passed the following steamers, bound in: side quarters: cheek at Helena, Phil Allen at Island 60, Bismarck at Pope's Landing, Jennie Howe at Ashley's, the latter and the Bismarck were preparing to come on up. The Belle Lee met a large number of flats and barges, which were comparatively uninjured: also rescued Harvey, wife and child from a dredge boat at the mouth of St. Francis river, where it had drifted from the crew.

About eight o'clock a large portion of the ice above Jefferson street broke away, carrying off the cabin of the Belle Peke, and at the foot of Monroe street struck the P. W. Strader, causing her to list so badly that it was thought she would sink. Since the ice soon passed and she righted again. She has twelve hundred and fifty bales of cotton on board. At eleven to-night weather cloudy and cold, with a stiff breeze from the southeast and but little ice running.

Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., December 30.—Cloudy and drizzling all day. Mercury ranged from 35 to 44. No floating ice. It is now reported that the river is frozen over at Six Mile Island, but no gorge this side of Eighteen Mile island.

Evansville.

EVANSVILLE, December 30.—Rained all day. Mercury up to 42. River has risen ten inches with a slight current in all the low, and a break up is expected to-night. The Leclaire is being dismantled and much anxiety felt for the safety of the waterwork.

Nashville.

NASHVILLE, December 30.—River falling slowly. Arrived—Burkesville, 29th. Departed—Brill, Pittsburgh.

St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, December 30.—A drizzling rain set in this morning, continued all day, and increased to a heavy storm to-night. All the snow disappeared and the ice in the river is rapidly softening. The tow boat Fisher is hanging to break the gorge below South St. Louis, and to-morrow the steamer Marble City and one or two other boats will assist and cut a passage through the gorge. The gorge above the bridge still holds on but is being used sparingly to-day, and if the rain continues to-morrow it will probably be entirely broken and a road way for teams.

Cairo.

CAIRO, ILL., December 30.—No arrivals or departures. The river has fallen four inches. Rain ceased this afternoon. Weather warmer and cloudy, with indications of more rain. Mercury 48.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, December 30.—Weather clear and soft. River still rising; has risen eight feet in all. The Mary Boyd and Batesville arrived from below. Departed—Arlington, Cincinnati; P. W. Strader, New Orleans; Glasgow, St. Louis; A. J. White, Napoleon. Nothing further from the gorge at Randolph. All the cotton on the Belle Peke has been saved.

Little Rock.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., December 30.—Cold, drizzling rain commenced on Sunday and continued until this evening. Weather warm and ice rapidly melting.

Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, MISS., December 30.—No boats to-day. Cloudy and cool. River falling.

New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, December 30.—Arrived—Alaska and Armadillo, Cincinnati; Mary Forsythe, Cairo; John B. Mander, Cincinnati; Imparted, Cincinnati, St. Louis; Mayflower, Memphis. Clear and pleasant.

COTTON MARKETS.

New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, December 30.—Cotton in good demand and firmer; sales 5,000 bales; good ordinary 15½c; low middling 19½c; middling 19¾@19¾c; receipts 20,293; receipts 7,849 bales; exports—Liverpool 2,946 bales; coastwise 3,187 bales; stock 172,945 bales.

Mobile.

MOBILE, December 30.—Cotton firm; good ordinary 18½c; middlings 19½c; net receipts 4,070 bales; exports—Coastwise 2,132 bales; sales 1,000 bales; stock 47,097 bales.

Charleston.

CHARLESTON, December 30.—Cotton firmer; middlings 19½c; net receipts 1,997 bales; exports—Coastwise 2,588 bales; sales 1,000 bales; stock 42,740 bales.

Galveston.

December 30.—Cotton firm; good ordinary 18½c; net receipts 1,615 bales; exports—Coastwise 1,590 bales; stock 61,424 bales.

BISHOP'S ROCK.

A Legend of Lake Hopatcong.

About one hundred and fifty years ago a small company of the sect called Rogerenes settled and built a village on the southwestern border of Lake Hopatcong, which lies between the counties of Morris and Sussex, in the northern part of New Jersey. A cemetery containing gravestones, with legible inscriptions, still remains. The daughter of one of these Rogerenes, named Bishop, fell in love with an enterprising Rogerene youth. She was beautiful and young, and the love was reciprocated. But an Indian chief, Black Hawk, also fell in love with Marie—for such was the girl's name—and was jealous of the young man. One night Marie and her lover went sailing on the lake. They came to what is now called Bishop's Rock, and there remained for several hours, when the girl, noticing how fast the time was passing, proposed that they should return home. The young man rose up accordingly, but had no sooner gained his feet, than he suddenly threw up his arms and fell forward on his face. At the same instant Black Hawk leaped from the bushes, scalping knife in hand. As he bent over her lover Marie, rendered frantic by the extremity of the danger, sprang at the Indian, and, with one frantic push, sent him headlong over the rock.

His brains were scattered upon the stones below, upon which he fell. The lover was carried safely back to the Rogerene village; was coaxed back to life by the faithful Marie, and the pair were at length united in a happy marriage. Their lives were long and peaceful; and when, in the lapse of years, Marie was about to pass away forever, her thoughts reverted to the early days; her mind was filled with a longing to see her childhood's home; as that was impossible, she caused her friends to promise to bury her where her heroic deed had been accomplished. They gratefully did so, and where it was not fulfilled. Her spirit, however, could not rest and every moonlight night throughout the warm months of the year, as the tale runs, may be seen between the hours of ten and eleven, the ghost of a beautiful young lady.

The story concludes in this manner: Everybody is not fortunate enough to see this vision, but all who do, it is said, may look for certain success and great happiness in their matrimonial ventures. Many young couples often watch off the rock, between the hours aforesaid, in order to see the apparition.

The Fate of Three Kentucky Desperadoes.

[From the Greenville (Ky.) Gazette.]

In earlier days the Green river country, when but sparsely settled, was infested by three outlaws, who, for devilish, bloodthirsty cruelty, were never excelled by any human beings that ever existed since the creation of the world. Murder, rapine and plunder were their whole occupation, and constituted the whole source of pleasure and delight for them. They were known as Big Harp, Little Harp and Mason—the two first being brothers. It is said their headquarters for booty was at or in the vicinity of cave-in-Rock, on the Ohio river, from whence they made their sallies upon the surrounding country as they passed down the Ohio with their loads of produce. Their mottowas, "Dead men tell no tales;" and today many an unlucky boatman sleeps beneath the placid waters of the Ohio, the unfortunate subjects of these fiends bloodthirsty cruelty. After many years of death and robbery of unoffending, they extended their depredations into the interior, and committed many outrages in the county of Henderson, when they were pursued by a party of citizens to this county, and Big Harp was killed on a hill near the residence of Dr. Owsley, on which he is still known as Harp's hill. The pursuers cut Harp's head off and carried it to the county of Union, at the forks of a road where it was stuck upon a pole. The county road traveled by the party is now known as Harp's Head road. After the murder of Big Harp, Little Harp and Mason fled to the State of Louisiana, where they pursued their devilish system of murdering all they came in contact with, regardless of age, sex or color, for many years, and until their hands had become a terror to the citizens of the whole lower Mississippi valley. The Governor of the State having issued a proclamation offering a large reward for their apprehension, and offering a large reward for satisfactory death of one or both, a party made up for the purpose of Big Harp, who, thirsting for gain, at once killed mason, cut off his head, and after disguising himself, with his bloody head and body, proceeded directly to New Orleans for the purpose of claiming the reward, where he was recognized by a party of flatboatmen and captured, and soon after met his death at the hands of the law. The accomplices of these three murderers were either captured and hung or killed, except Bellew, who, years after, met his end death at the hands of a Vicksburg vigilance committee.

CITY MATTERS.

Letters Held for Postage December 30, 1872.

	Cents.
Mrs. Anne Montford, Pike, N. Y.	3
Mrs. Dr. Hamilton, Milwaukee, Wis.	3
Mrs. John Wenton, Hillsboro, O.	3
Mrs. Mary Hoffman, Vincentown, N. J.	3
M. M. Bettis Co, Hartford, Conn.	3
Keller Kurtz, New York, N. Y.	3
A fred Chapman, New Cumberland, W. Va.	3
Andrew McMillen, Youngstown, Ohio	3
James Smith, Harrisburg, Pa.	3
Wm. E. Clintock,	3

JOHN H. STEWART, P. M.

Boston Clothing House.

Our readers in need of clothing will find a splendid assortment of ready-made clothing at the Boston Clothing House, 96 Smithfield street, Pittsburgh, and 178 Federal street, Allegheny. Ten per cent less than the usual prices. Call and see for yourself and purchased this week. If in need of wearing apparel, call at one of the stores referred to.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

Daly's play, the "Flash of Lightning," commenced the second week of its highly successful run at the Pittsburgh Opera House last night, when a good audience was present, weather considered. The scenery and stage appointments are magnificent. The company having been excellent here. The costumes are judiciously distributed, showing the company at its best, now that all have become thoroughly trained in their *roles*. The performance to-night, which will thickly repay everybody for the time and money expended in seeing it, will no doubt be rewarded during the remainder of the week. There will be a matinee to-morrow.

The American Theater.

The holiday attractions secured by Mr. Arms for the amusement of his patrons are such as to render it the favorite American Theater a source of unmixed pleasure. Miss Blanche Seaver, the sapphire trouper, and all the old favorites appear. The usual matinee to-morrow.

Trimble's Varieties.

Messrs. Gardner & Trimble, who never do things by halves, announce "another cargo of trest for their comfortable patrons" for to-night, which is well seasoned in the popular favor. A fine bill to-night, and these performances on New Years' day, at 10 A. M., 2 and 8 P. M.

Academy of Music.

The new programme introduced by Messrs. Carncross & Dixey's minstrels was well received by a crowded house last night. The quartette sang well in public favor nightly, and well it should, as more enjoyable vocal music has not been heard in our city for a long time. The banjo duo of Messrs. Moore are the gems of the second part, while the comicalities of Messrs. Dixey, Talbot, Hall, and others, keep the audience in a continuous roar of laughter. For an evening of genuine enjoyment we commend to Pittsburgh readers the Academy. A good bill is announced for this evening.

Masonic Hall.

Mac Evoy's rehabilitated Hibernicon, which gives as correct an idea of Irish society as can be obtained without a visit to them in person, was unrolled at Masonic Hall last evening before a very fine audience. The new scenes proved to be an improvement on those with which our citizens had become familiar during former visits, and as the increases were. Mr. W. F. Lawlor, as "Barney, the Guide," shows excellent vocal and dramatic abilities, and was received at his first appearance with applause. Miss Kate Byrnes is a charming little actress, and both she and Lawlor hand jig with Barney Carroll, of the evening. The farce of "Barney and the Ghost," with which the entertainment concludes, was received with shouts of laughter. The Hibernicon may be seen again this evening. To-morrow there will be two performances, matinee and at night.

Blind Tom Coming.

Blind Tom, the musical mystery, will soon visit our city and give three of his wonderful performances at Masonic Hall next week, commencing on Monday evening. He is said to be as full of speech as ever, and to retain his great powers of imitation.

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL.

Special Meeting Last Night.

The Borough Council of Birmingham met last evening in special session. Members present—Messrs. Kerr, Duncan, Doyle, Ziefel, Schwarm, Conway, Ward and Burgess Salisbury in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting and special meetings were read and approved.

Mr. Kerr, chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the Finance Committee had examined the Borough Treasurer's accounts and found them correct. The accused leaves a balance of $2,30 still in the Treasury.

Mr. Kerr moved that a committee of three be appointed to take charge of the books and papers belonging to the borough. Adopted and Messrs Salisbury, Doyle and Ziefel appointed.

The report of the Wharfmaster for the month was presented, showing his receipts to have been $107 25. Received and filed.

The report of the Market master for the month of December, showing his receipts to have been $616 71, was received and filed.

Mr. Ziefel moved that N. J. Keller & Co. be compelled to pay dockage to the amount of $25 for the obstruction of the wharf by a flat for nine months. Carried.

Mr. Kerr presented the report of the Finance Committee in relation to the claim of N. J. Keller & Co., which was referred to it by Council, and followed the firm $1 35. Received and filed.

A number of bills amounting in the aggregate to $250 were read and warrants ordered to be drawn for their respective amounts.

Warrants are then ordered to be drawn in favor of all the borough officers, including the borough police.

Adjourned.

EAST BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL.

Special Meeting and Final Adjournment.

The Borough Council of East Birmingham met last evening. Members present: Messrs. Haberman, Hahn, Brown, Ihmsen, Fox, Fischer, Kemler, Thornton, Felker, Eitemiller and Burgess Dressel.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr. Haberman, Chairman of the Finance Committee, reported in relation to the business tax, that in the opinion of all the members spoken to, including the Pittsburgh Solicitor, was that the borough had unlimited right to collect the business tax, and a the borough had to do was to assess and collect it therewith. Report accepted.

Mr. Brown moved that the borough Finance Committee be continued until relieved by a commission appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions. Carried.

Mr. Haberman presented the report of the financial affairs of the borough, showing the balance on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year to December the 30th, 1872, the receipts were $61,757 72, and the expenditures $61,795 86; balance on hand $41 66. Report accepted and filed.

The report was not final, as the committee could not make any final report until a settlement is made with the Commissioners who will be appointed by the courts to examine the borough accounts.

Mr. Hahn, of the Wharf Committee, presented a report of the receipts from the wharf for the last nine months, as follows:

Cash collected	$68 45
Wharfage yet due	201 80
Total	$347 70
Expenditures	270 09
Balance	$ 77 70

Received and filed.

Mr. Brown moved that Councils donate to Mr. Whinck, a constable who fractured a leg while on duty, the sum of one hundred dollars. Adopted.

Mr. Felker moved that the Borough Solicitor be paid two hundred dollars additional for extra services rendered during the year. Adopted.

A warrant for $75 was also ordered to be drawn in favor of the Solicitor for the drawing up of ordinances during the year.

Mr. Haberman presented a petition from Cunningham & Ihmsen asking the right to connect a switch, which connects with the Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charlestown Railway, down Twentieth street, to Sarah street. The petition was accompanied by a resolution, which the gentleman desired Council to pass, urging the Pittsburgh Councils to grant the petition. The resolution was laid on the table by a vote of five to four.

A number of bills were read, and warrants ordered to be drawn for their respective amounts.

Adjourned.

H. W. OLIVER, JR.

A Pleasant Episode in Common Council—President Oliver Presented with a Silver Tea Set.

While the Common Council was in the midst of its work, yesterday, an unusual interruption occurred. Mr. C. F. Duff, who is among the foremost when a clever or generous act is to be performed, appeared with a large package in his arms; and the roguish smile, and merry twinkle of his eye, indicated that there was "something up." In a moment he proceeded to display upon a desk in front of the President, a beautiful and costly silver tea set, consisting of seven pieces.

Josiah Cohen, Esq., at this juncture, having been, a few moments before, advised of what was coming, moved a suspension of business, which was agreed to. Then, addressing the President, he said:

President Oliver—I have been called on, very unexpectedly, to perform, on behalf of this Council, what to me is a very pleasing duty. It is always gratifying, sir, when in the performance of duty, to know that our efforts are appreciated by our friends and the public. Such is your position, Mr. President, to-day. We feel that any gift we could bestow would but poorly express our sentiments of regard, and our appreciation of your services as the presiding officer of this body; but we desire to present a slight token of that regard and esteem. We ask you to look upon this gift as representing the full measure of your duty, and on our part as an evidence of appreciation of the manner in which that duty was performed. You were unanimously chosen to preside over this body at the beginning of the year, and from now at its close no one regrets the choice. While we all regret your retirement from office, we believe the day has not fully arrived when you shall be called upon to represent the people in a higher and more useful position, and give wider scope to those business and executive abilities which you have so satisfactorily exhibited in this body. [Applause.] Accept this gift, then, sir, as a token of the regard and esteem of your fellowmembers, and bind it down as an heirloom to those who are to succeed you. [Applause.]

President Oliver, whose manner and appearance indicated that he had been completely surprised, said:

Gentlemen and Friends:—You have not only gratified me beyond all expression, but (to use a backneyed phrase) taken me entirely by surprise. My tongue loses any little cunning it may have had for ordinary occasions, and I feel myself unable to give proper expression to my feelings. I never doubted that I had your confidence. This I can say without the slightest reservation. I have had not only your confidence, but your hearty support and co-operation, and therefore to you I am indebted for whatever success may have attended the performance of my official duties. I have endeavored, in my humble way, to discharge my duties to the best of my judgment, and I can never, never forget your kindness and support. I am not insensible to the fact that I have often erred; but I have tried, as near as I could, to do what was right. You will declare, in the most generous and friendly way, that I have pleased you, and this acknowledgment on your part I can never forget while memory lasts. I thank you gentlemen of the Common Council for this elegant gift, and for the generous and flattering manner in which it has been presented in your behalf.

At the conclusion his remarks, Mr. Oliver resigned the chair to Dr. McCandless and the business of council was resumed.

The set was silver up at the establishment of Mr. Thomas McFadden, Jr., Fifth avenue, and is creditable to all concerned. The testimonial was both heartily and worthily bestowed.

THE RAILROAD ORDINANCE.

Signing of the Contract Between the City of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

The agreement between the City of Pittsburgh and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, embodied in the ordinance passed by Councils last summer, relative to the vacation of certain streets, and the construction of bridges and tunnels at the intersection of streets with the tracks of the company, was formally consummated yesterday. The agreement had been handsomely engrossed by John Dalzell, Esq., Assistant Solicitor of the company, and was signed by the President of Councils and all the other officers of the company, together with the City Attorney, J. F. Slagle, Esq., during the recent visit of Mr. Thomson to this city. After the return of Mr. Thomson to Philadelphia, the contract was executed by the directors to attach his signature, and yesterday the Hon. James Blackmore, Mayor, signed the document on behalf of the city. Attached to the instrument is the following:

In witness whereof, the said City of Pittsburgh has hereunto affixed its common and corporate seal, and elected to the signature of the Mayor thereof, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has also attached its common and corporate seal, attested by its President and Secretary, the day and year aforesaid."

The contract, in view of the valuable grounds that will be made available for the passage of the city, the vacation of portions of Grant, Washington and other streets, and the numerous changes and improvements which the company obligates itself to make for its own benefit and that of the city, is one of the most important documents ever executed between the company and the city. The general provisions of the agreement are so well understood by our citizens that they need not be stated. The whole subject has been fully discussed in Councils, and in the newspapers, and there is a general acquiescence in the fairness of the terms agreed upon. The carrying out of the contract will involve years of labor, and the expenditure of several million dollars. The great objects sought to be accomplished in the passage of the ordinance for the transaction of the business of the road, which extends from the Ohio to the Lakes, are our growth and prosperity, and the greater comfort, convenience and safety of our citizens. That these desirable ends will be attained, is the judgment of those who have given the question a careful examination.

A Street Car Incident.

Yesterday afternoon a funny incident occurred on a Penn avenue car. The car was crowded and the atmosphere very close, when one of the ladies, who had evidently been a little too demonstrative, fainted. In a moment the other ladies in the car went to her assistance, and opening a window, proceeded as usual in such cases. Presently the car arrived opposite Wilkins street, and the passengers unanimously resolved that the woman, who was still insensible, should be conveyed further for treatment. This was done, and just as she left the car she revived sufficiently to say to her husband, "John, don't forget the basket." There was a laugh.

Temperance.

An earnest effort is now making towards the organization of a Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance for Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh, and an agent of the National Division, Mr. Nathaniel Pratt, is now in the city for the purpose of effect the object. The members of No. 42 division will be a meeting on Christmas day, at which the matter was consulted, and took such action as will without doubt result in the organization of a Grand body in this city.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE snow on our streets is a little off color some now.

"BLIND TOM," the negro pianist, will be here next week.

THE pay roll of the police for this month will foot up $10,601 56.

THE funeral of "Vane" Blackmore was largely attended yesterday.

RAIN fell last evening, and the prospect of a large supply of suash was good.

THERE were only seven common cases before Deputy Mayor Butler yesterday.

THE thieves are after the contribution boxes of the churches. This is worse than robbing the wealthy hospitals.

CHIEF CLARK yesterday recovered the two overcoats stolen during the fire last week, and has arrested the thief.

MANUEL BUSH, a resident of Port Perry, alleged before Alderman McMasters yesterday that her husband struck her and kicked their three children. The usual papers were made out.

JOHN W. RIDDELL, Esq., will be supported by his friends for the office of Select Councilman in Common Council. He is an excellent parliamentarian, and if elected will fill the chair creditably and satisfactorily.

THE Finance Committee of Councils has determined that the police shall pay their own fines when they are now wearing, and of which they have been in possession for nearly a year. The boys murmur thereat.

YESTERDAY Fire Marshal Butler abated a nuisance in the shape of a smokehouse which was maintained in the cellar of the house No. 215 Fifth avenue. The proprietor, J. Kasper, had used the establishment in the perfecting of sausages.

CAPT. JNO. U. GILL, for a long time connected with the City Treasurer's office, while it was in Wilkins Hall, leaves for Harrisburg to-day. The Captain anticipates wielding a pen in the Capitol during the coming session of the Legislature.

OFFICER W. C. WRAY found a horse and sleigh last night on Second avenue, near the gas works. The animal had run away, and the sleigh was destroyed, since deep in a snow drift. It was taken to Peabody Patterson, Jr.'s, livery stable for the night.

ASSISTANT CONTROLLER R. M. SNODGRASS officiated as Clerk of Select Council, pro tem., yesterday, in the absence of Mr. Morrow, who was attending the funeral of a relative. Mr. Snodgrass performed the duties devolving upon him in a highly satisfactory manner.

THE total number of cases now pending in the U. S. District Court for this judicial district are 1,505 criminal, 48 civil, 12 admiralty and 418 bankruptcy. The number of cases for August next will probably are 82 criminal, 18 civil, 12 admiralty and 112 bankruptcy.

THE Police Committee of Allegheny Councils convened last evening and approved the monthly pay roll. The pay roll for the day police amounts to $11,196. Also the night police, $4,196. Warrants to be paid to-day, and thus will be able to properly join the festivities of the anniversary.

MAYOR CALLOW performed a marriage ceremony yesterday afternoon, the contracting parties being a young concert couple named Edward Howard and Kate Buncombe. The bride had preferred a charge of seduction against Howard, who proposed to settle the matter by marriage, which was accordingly done.

THE steamer Victoria arrived at New York, yesterday, from Queenstown, and among her passengers were the Rev. J. S. Stockenburg and wife, D. J. Nogle and wife and Miss Nogle, of this city. The friends of these persons will be glad to hear of their safe arrival, and will give them a most cordial welcome home.

THE St. Joseph's Fair, at New Brighton, is still in progress, and the meeting in session. The display of articles is excellent, and the trade in them at the various booths very lively. The voting is earnest and the several candidates are working like beavers. The fair will close on Saturday evening, January 4th.

THE letter-carriers deserve to be remembered by the people, whom they have served faithfully, in these holiday times. They have had to walk in all sorts of weather, and have very small pay. If each householder would give them "a something," a nice addition to their income would be made without taking any one severely.

ABOUT ten o'clock yesterday morning, while a number of men were engaged in blasting rock in the Millvale Station, about two miles from Allegheny, a large piece of frozen earth and stone was struck by one of the quarrymen, throwing him a distance of several feet. Dr. Gross was summoned and attended to his injuries, which are considered dangerous.

MR. ADAM SMITH, a well known and respectable citizen of Allegheny, died yesterday after a brief illness. His death is still more distressing when it is remembered that his sister, who resided with his family, died a few weeks since. His death will cast a gloom over a large circle of friends and acquaintances. He resided on Western, near Irwin avenue, Allegheny.

THOSE of our lecture-going people who have been anticipating a postponement of their curiosity in hearing a discourse from ex-Governor A. Wise, of Virginia, are deemed, it appears, to at least a temporary disappointment. Word now comes that the versatile gentleman is ill, and will not be able to fill his engagement.

MR. S. R. RAY, SR., a highly esteemed citizen of Allegheny, died at his residence on Boyle street yesterday morning, after an illness of only one week. No apprehensions whatever were felt until Sunday evening, when he rapidly grew worse and died as stated. Mr. Ray has filled a number of official positions, and at the time of his death was City Assessor, which position he had filled for the past six years. The deceased was sixty-one years of age.

A FEW nights since a party, consisting of Newton Gibson and Elizabeth Hamilton, and two others, attempted to cross the Ohio river in a skiff from Fleming station. The skiff became wedged in the ice and was borne for a mile down the river to Dixmont, when, after strenuous exertions, the shore was reached. The two men left their hands badly frozen, and it was feared that amputation in the case of Mr. Gibson would be necessary, but the attending physician, Dr. McCreedy, hopes to save the limb.

MR. JAMES A. HENDERSON, of the firm of Furman & Henderson, steamboat agents of Lodi city, has joined the ranks of the benedicts. On Thursday evening last, at California, Hamilton county, Ohio, he was united by bonds matrimonial to Miss Clara S. Johnston, of that place. Miss Hattie B. Johnston, sister of the bride, and Capt. J. M. Phillips, of this city, acted as bridesmaid and groomsman. The young couple deserve a long and happy life; that such may fall to their lot is the universal wish of friends almost innumerable.

PITTSBURGH COUNCILS.

Final Meeting of the Year—Presentation of Reports, Ordinances, Resolutions, &c.—The Annexation of Wilkins Township—The Fire Commission — The City Clerkship—The City Engineer and Attorney Have Their Terms of Office Fixed—Original Business Disposed Of, &c., &c.

Councils held the final meeting of the year yesterday afternoon. The business disposed of was as follows:

SELECT COUNCIL.

A quorum being present, Mr. Gross in the chair, Council proceeded to business.

Assistant Controller, Mr. R. M. Snodgrass, acted as Clerk *pro tem.*, in the absence of Mr. Morrow.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Some discussion ensued as to the disposition of the ordinance dividing the seventeenth ward into two election precincts. The ordinance was declared improperly before us.

Mr. Safferty—An ordinance fixing the term of office of Street Commissioners at three years each. Rules not suspended, and resolution laid over.

Mr. J. H. Jones—An ordinance fixing the salary of the Clerk of Select Council at $2,000 per annum. Passed finally.

THE WATER COMMISSION.

Mr. Aiken—An ordinance amending the ordinance providing for the creation of new water works, making it proper to elect two members of the Water Commission outside of Councils. Thus making the elections, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years; two to be chosen for office until the next annual election of city officers.

Mr. McCarthy moved to refer the bill to the City Solicitor for his opinion.

The rules were not suspended and the ordinance lies over.

Mr. Attegury—Ordinance providing for the election of a clerk for the South Side barracks at a salary of $1,000 per annum. The ordinance was passed finally.

Mr. Floyd—Monthly report of the Water Committee, showing the expenses in December to have been $7,268 45. Received and filed.

Sundry lamps were ordered in the new districts.

FROM COMMON COUNCIL.

The resolution giving the military of the district the free use of the old Council chambers on Market street, passed in Common Council, was concurred in. Also, the report of the Water Commission, &c.

The ordinance relative to the opening of Shaw street, Seventeenth ward, was objected to, and a remonstrance was presented by Mr. Riddell. The matter was laid over under the rules.

THE ANNEXATION OF A PORTION OF WILKINS TOWNSHIP.

The President then read the opinion of Maj. Slagle, City Attorney, to whom had been referred the petition and ordinance for the admission of a portion of Wilkins township, as a separate ward of the city. Attorney decided that the requirements of the act of Assembly had been complied with—the petition having been accompanied with an affidavit setting forth that three-fifths of the taxable inhabitants of the district asking admission had petitioned for the same. This being the case, there was nothing to prevent Councils from taking action; but if a remonstrance should be presented, it might be advisable to refer the matter to a committee for investigation.

Mr. McCandless then submitted what purported to be a list of the taxable inhabitants of the proposed district, by a remonstrance bearing on the same subject, which he asked to have referred to a special committee. He stated that he knew nothing of the facts, but that he had been asked to present the list to Councils. As the matter was an important one, and as the time was limited, he thought it best to refer the whole subject to a committee for investigation.

Mr. Littell then moved that a special committee of five be appointed—two from each side and three from the Common Council—to whom should be referred the petition, remonstrance and other papers relative to the annexation of Wilkins township.

The motion was adopted, and Messrs. James Littell and W. B. Hunter were appointed on part of the Select, and Messrs. Hamilton, Gross and Duff on part of the Common Council.

All business from Common Council not otherwise noted, was concurred in.

THE CITY CLERKS.

The draft of an act of Assembly providing for the compensation of the City Clerks of the city and of fixing their duties, was called up.

The act provides that the clerk shall hold office for a term of three years; that he shall appoint a similar term who shall act as clerk of Common Council, and all committees, unless otherwise ordered by Councils.

The act also provided that the assistant clerk should perform such duties as the City Clerk might assign him. The compensation of the assistant clerk to make the assistant clerk "perform such duties as the City Councils" should assign. Select Council concurred in the signature of the bill.

During the consideration of the draft, Mr. McCarthy moved to reconsider the resolution taking the act up *seriatim*. Lost.

When the act came up for final disposition Mr. McCarthy succeeded in striking out all the section giving the Clerks of Council power to administer oaths.

The act as amended in Common Council was then approved, Select Council reconsidering their former action.

THE CITY ENGINEERS.

The following ordinance was then taken up: "An ordinance fixing the term of office of the City Engineer:"

SECTION 1. Be it ordained and enacted by the City of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same, That on and after the first day of February, 1873, the term of office of the City Engineer shall be one year.

SEC. 2. That at the next annual election of city officers the Councils shall, by a majority vote, elect or appoint by law a City Engineer, to serve for the term of three years, from the first day of February, 1873.

SEC. 3. That section 6 of the Engineer, Sec. 1," shall be amended to read as follows:

SEC. 1. "The Councils shall at the next annual election of city officers, and every three years thereafter, elect a suitable person, who shall be a regular educated civil engineer, to be the City Engineer and Surveyor, who shall have control of and superintend all matters connected with the location and survey of streets, grading and paving the same, and the construction of sewers, within the city of Pittsburgh."

Passed finally.

THE CITY ATTORNEY.

Mr. Montooth called up the ordinance relating to the duties and salary of the City Attorney. It was as follows:

SECTION 1. Be it ordained and enacted by the city of Pittsburgh, in Select and Common Councils assembled, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the first day of February, A.D. 1873, the City Attorney shall not practice in any of the courts of this city, but shall devote his entire time to the duties of his office, and shall receive as a salary for the same the sum of $3,000 per annum, payable quarterly. Provided, That said annual salary shall not be construed to prohibit the City Attorney from receiving such fees as may be allowed by law, and that all commissions to which he is entitled under existing laws or ordinances shall be collected and paid to the City Treasurer quarterly, for the use of the city.

Passed finally.

ORIGINAL BUSINESS.

Mr. Jeremy—A resolution requesting the repeal of an act of Assembly, making the City Attorney elective by the Finance Committee, and referring the election to the people. Lost by a vote of 33 to 10.

An opinion was read from the City Attorney setting forth that the act creating a board of Fire Commissioners on the improvement of Carson street, it would be the duty of those appointed to build and maintain the bridge, as the act was construed.

The matter was referred to a special committee of two from Select, consisting of Messrs. Adams and Atterbury and three from Common Council.

Mr. Riddell—Mr. Riddell, in the city, a resolution of thanks to Mr. Gross, President of the Select Council, for his courtesy and ability in the chair, performed the duties of his office during 1872. Passed unanim